

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES
November 1, 2014
Jekyll Island Club/Jekyll Island, GA**

The 254th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, President, presided.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker noted the following changes to the Board of Governors agenda: 1) the legislative proposals under item 4 are action items; 2) the Amendments to Bylaws Article V under item 5a is an informational item only; 3) a report by the Business Court Committee has been added as item 6f; and 4) since William Hill withdrew his nomination to the JQC, under item 2c she submitted the nomination of Lester B. Johnson, III to fill the expiring term of Robert Ingram, and added the nomination of Lester Tate to fill his term when it expires in December. Thereafter, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the agenda as revised.

Special Recognition

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recognized the members of the judiciary, the Past Presidents of the State Bar, and the YLD members and other special guests in attendance.

Roll Call

Secretary Pat O'Connor circulated the attached roll (Exhibit A) for signature.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker referred the Board of Governors to the Future Meetings Schedule.

Consent Agenda

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented the following Consent Agenda and asked for approval of those items:

- 1) Minutes of the 252nd & 253rd Meetings of the Board of Governors
The minutes of the Board of Governors meetings on June 6, 2014 and June 7, 2014 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort, Amelia Island, Florida.
- 2) Executive Committee Minutes (information)
The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on June 7, 2014 and August 22, 2014.
- 3) Appointments to Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC)
 - a) Nomination of Lester B. Johnson, III for a four-year term (expiring term of Robert Ingram).
 - b) Nomination of Lester Tate for a four-year term (expiring term of Lester Tate).
- 4) Appointments to Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency
Appointment of Aasia Mustakeem and reappointment of Gerald Edenfield for three-year terms.

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the remaining items on the Consent Agenda that were not previously revised.

Special Presentations

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recognized and presented a resolution to Board member Randy Davis for his heroic act of flying to Liberia to rescue an Ebola patient.

Legislation

Following a report by Dawn Jones, Thomas Worthy, and proponents of the legislative proposals, the Board of Governors took the following action on proposed legislation. Dawn Jones announced that the Advisory Committee on Legislation will next meet at the State Bar Building on December 4, 2014.

<u>Legislative Proposal</u>	<u>Germane to Purposes Of the Bar</u>	<u>Support on Merits 2/3 Majority</u>
Family Law Section		
1) Attestation of Execution of Antenuptial Agreements	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote
Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession		
1) Funding Request for Victims of Domestic Violence (\$2.5 million)	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote
Georgia Resource Center		
1) Georgia Resource Center Funding (\$800,000) for 2014 Fiscal Year	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote
Real Property Law Section		
1) Unauthorized Practice of Law Legislation	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote

Thomas Worthy provided a preview of the 2015 Legislative Session. Legislative issues will include judicial salary increases, a Real Property Law Section proposal on water liens, and a proposal from the Bar's Discovery of Electronically Stored Information Task Force.

Amendment to Bylaw Article V – Officers

Paula Frederick reported on proposed amendments to Bylaw Article V that will be an action item at the General Members' meeting at the Midyear Meeting.

Amendments to Animal Law Section Bylaws

Paula Frederick introduced Bill NeSmith, the Bar's new Deputy General Counsel, who reported on proposed amendments to the Animal Law Section Bylaws. The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the proposed amendments (Exhibit B).

President's Report

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker reported on her program of activities for the 2014-15 Bar year and referred the Board to the detailed narrative of her activities included in the agenda. She continues to visit Bar associations around the state and to speak to groups at the high school and college level about the law. Her iCivics initiative is operating as a pilot project in five school systems, which has resulted in the training of 150 teachers and has reached over 20,000 students in the Atlanta Public Schools, and in the counties of Chatham, Muscogee, Liberty, Wilkinson and Harris. Shiriki Cavitt, YLD LRE Committee Co-chair, has assembled 153 attorney volunteers to assist teachers in their classrooms with the iCivics program. She reported that the Rural Lawyers initiative is moving forward with all of the companion

pieces associated with the program. Funding is being sought through legislative appropriation to help with the initiative, and she is meeting with local county officials for their buy-in and support. She has improved and upgraded the technology used by the State Bar for conferencing with remote offices as well as expanded the Bar's communications efforts around the state, and she referred the Board members to a handout detailing those efforts. She reported that the Law School Incubator Program is still being developed under the guidance of Bucky Askew. She announced there will be a celebration of the Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary Commemoration in March 2015 that will include an exhibit and symposium spearheaded by Ken Shigley. Lastly, she provided an update on the Bar's previous efforts to purchase and secure a parking deck.

The Board of Governors received a written report on the President's activities and accomplishments from June-October 2014.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rita Sheffey reported on the Bar's finances and investments. The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report for the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2014; Operations Income Statement YTD for the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2014; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2014; State Bar Balance Sheet for June 30, 2014; and the Summary of Selected Payment Information for the Periods through September 30, 2012-2014.

YLD Report

YLD President Sharri Edenfield reported on the activities of the Young Lawyers Division. The Military Support Initiative will provide pro bono legal services to veterans. YLD members are being asked to volunteer their services with the Military/Veterans Law Section's Legal Assistance Clinics around the state, to assist veterans with applications for benefits, to provide outreach to JAG officers who are young lawyers, and to support the Augusta Warrior Project, which is the recipient beneficiary of the 2015 Signature Fundraiser. Upcoming events include a VA Accreditation CLE and Veterans Assistance CLE on January 8, 2015, ongoing training sessions for Legal Assistance Clinics, and a First Responders/Veterans Wills Clinic in Statesboro in January/February 2015. The Legislative Initiative includes an effort to place attorneys in underserved areas around the state to help provide access to justice in Georgia's rural areas. The Professional Development Initiative will entail workshops and CLE's for young lawyers to further advance their careers and a Solo-Small Firm Institute/Affiliates Conference in Macon on February 21, 2015. In partnership with the Georgia Law School Consortium, a Succession Planning Program is being developed that will connect law students and young lawyers with older lawyers transitioning out of practicing law. She announced that the Family Law Committee held its Supreme Cork fundraiser in October, where it raised money for the AVLf, and that the High School Mock Trial Program's Law Academy took place September 19-21, 2014.

The Board of Governors also received a written report on the YLD committees, programs and projects for the 2014-15 Bar year.

Activities in the Circuits

Clayton Alan Tomlinson, Alapaha Circuit Board of Governors representative, reported on the activities of the Alapaha Circuit Bar Association.

Thomas R. Burnside, III, Augusta Circuit Board of Governors representative, reported on the activities of the Augusta Bar Association. YLD President-elect Jack Long reported on the activities of the Augusta Young Lawyers.

Robert H. Smalley, III, Conasauga Circuit Board of Governors representative, reported on the activities of the Conasauga Bar Association.

Member Benefits Committee

Judge Render Heard introduced Chip and Nick Trefrey of Member Benefits Inc. who provided a report on the State Bar's Health Insurance Exchange and the benefits available on the exchange.

Special Presentation

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson and members of the Supreme Court of Georgia presented a Supreme Court Proclamation to the family of Harvey Weitz expressing their deep gratitude for his legal career, service and friendship, and deep sadness to his family for their loss. Thereafter, President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented a State Bar Resolution to Harvey's family recognizing his many contributions and notable achievements to the State Bar and the legal profession, and thanking his family for "loaning" him to us.

Business Court Committee

Ken Hodges reported on a proposed expansion of the Business Court and a rules change proposed by the Atlanta International Arbitration Society. Since this is expected to be an action item at the Midyear Meeting, Board members were encouraged to send comments to him or to Joel Wooten, the Business Court Committee Chair.

Office of General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Office of General Counsel.

Military Legal Assistance Program

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the Status of the Military Legal Assistance Program.

Consumer Assistance Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Consumer Assistance Program.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Law Practice Management Program.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Annual Meeting Survey

The Board of Governors received a copy of the results of the 2014 Annual Meeting Survey.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Remarks, Questions/Answers, Comments/Suggestions

The President opened up the meeting for questions and comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. O'Connor", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick T. O'Connor, Secretary

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrie M. Perkins-Hooker", written over a horizontal line.

Patrie M. Perkins-Hooker, President