

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MINUTES  
June 22, 2013  
Marriott Hilton Head Resort & Spa/Hilton Head Island, SC**

The 248<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Charles L. Ruffin, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Ruffin recognized the Past Presidents of the State Bar, members of the judiciary and other special guests in attendance, and the new Officers and members of the Board of Governors.

Roll Call

Secretary Rita A. Sheffey circulated the attached roll (Exhibit A) for signature.

Future Meetings Schedule

The Board of Governors received a copy of the Future Meetings Schedule.

Consent Agenda

President Ruffin presented the Consent Agenda. There being no objection or request for removal of any of the items, a motion was made and seconded to approve the following items:

- 1) Approval of President's Appointments to the State Disciplinary Boards  
Investigative Panel:  
District 8: Donald W. Huskins (2016)  
District 9: Ramon Alvarado (2016)  
District 10: Larry I. Smith (2016)  
At-Large: Dan Reinhardt (2016)  
  
Review Panel:  
Northern District: Brad Marsh (2016)  
Middle District: Rusty Simpson (2016)  
Southern District: Sarah Brown Akins (2016)  
  
Formal Advisory Opinion Board:  
Georgia Trial Lawyers Assoc.: Jack Helms, Jr. (2015)  
Georgia Defense Lawyers Assoc.: Evelyn Fletcher Davis (2015)  
Young Lawyers Division: Christopher R. Abrego (2015)  
Atlanta John Marshall Law School: Jeffrey Van Detta (2015)  
Mercer University: Patrick Longan (2015)  
University of Georgia: Lonnie Brown, Jr. (2015)  
At-Large: Edward B. Krugman (2015)  
Travis Sakrison (2015)  
Jeffrey Schneider (fills unexpired term of Ed Carriere) (2014)
- 2) Approval of 2013-14 Standing, Special, Program Committees and Boards  
Copies were distributed at the meeting.

- 3) Executive Director Election (2013-14)  
Cliff Brashier
- 4) Georgia Legal Services Appointments  
Appointments of Damon Elmore; Albert Reichart, Jr.; and Jill Pryor for two-year terms (6/13-6/15).
- 5) Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Appointment  
Reappointment of Jennifer Davis for a three-year term (7/13-6/16).
- 6) 2013-14 State Bar Election Schedule
- 7) Authorization for President to Secure Blanket Bonds for Officers and Staff  
As required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws, to authorize the President to secure blanket fidelity bonds for the Bar's Officers and staff handling State Bar funds.
- 8) Designation of Depositories for General Operations of State Bar of Georgia  
Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws, to direct the State Bar and related entities to open appropriate accounts with such banks in Atlanta, Georgia, but excluding any banks that do not participate in the IOLTA Program, and other such depositories as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and designated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia, said depository currently being Merrill Lynch, and that the persons whose titles are listed below are authorized to sign an agreement to be provided by such banks and customary signature cards, and that the said banks are hereby authorized to pay or otherwise honor any check drafts, or other orders issued from time to time for debit to said accounts when signed by two of the following: Treasurer, Secretary, President, Immediate Past President, President-elect, Executive Director, General Counsel, and Officer Manager provided either the President, Secretary, or Treasurer shall sign all checks or vouchers, and that said accounts can be reconciled from time to time by said persons or their designees. The authority herein given is to remain irrevocable so as said banks are concerned until they are notified in writing, acknowledge receipt thereof.
- 9) Employment of Independent Auditing Firm to Audit Financial Records of State Bar for FY 2012  
Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws, to designate that Cherry Bekaert & Holland be designated as the independent auditing firm to audit the financial records of the State Bar for the fiscal year 2011-2012.
- 10) Executive Committee Minutes  
The minutes of the February 21, 2013, and April 26, 2013, Executive Committee Minutes, as presented.

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved all of the above items on the Consent Agenda.

#### Report of the President

President Ruffin addressed the Board of Governors and presented an overview of his proposed program of activities for the 2013-2014 Bar year (Exhibit B).

Executive Committee Election

The Executive Committee election was held with the following results:

Election 1:

Nominations:

Candidate: John Flanders Kennedy  
Nominator: Thomas W. Herman  
Seconded: Catherine Koura

Results:

Candidate: Kenneth B. Hodges, III  
Nominator: S. Lester Tate, III  
Seconded: Hon. Lawton E. Stephens

Elected by majority ballot vote (to fill the unexpired term of Rita A. Sheffey) for a one-year term

Candidate: Eric Alvin Ballinger  
Nominator: Martin Enrique Valbuena  
Seconded: Lester B. Johnson, III

Election 2:

Nominations:

Candidate: Eric Alvin Ballinger  
Nominator: Martin Enrique Valbuena  
Seconded: Lester B. Johnson, III

Candidate: David S. Lipscomb  
Nominator: N. Harvey Weitz  
Seconded: Nancy J. Whaley

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Brian D. Rogers  
Nominator: Stephanie J. Kirijan  
Seconded: H. Craig Stafford

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: John Flanders Kennedy  
Nominator: Thomas W. Herman  
Seconded: Catherine Koura

Candidate: Elizabeth Louise Fite  
Nominator: Elena Kaplan  
Seconded: R. Chris Phelps

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Suicide Prevention Video

Immediate Past President Robin Clark presented the Suicide Prevention and Awareness video. She also announced that several PSA's have been developed in conjunction with this effort to educate Bar members, their families, and business associates how to recognize the symptoms of suicide and where to seek help.

Treasurer's Report and 2013-2014 State Bar Budget with Board Restrictions

Treasurer Bob Kauffman, after recognizing the hard work done last year by former Treasurer Patrise Perkins-Hooker, provided a report on the Bar's finances and investments. Following that, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the proposed 2013-2014 State Bar Operating and Bar Center Budgets as presented (Exhibit C).

The Board of Governors received a copy of the Revenue and Expenditures, Income Statement YTD, Balance Sheet, and Bar Center Revenue and Expenditures for the ten months ended April 30, 2013.

#### Rule 4-228, Receiverships

Following a report by Paula Frederick, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved recommending to the Supreme Court of Georgia proposed amendments (Exhibit D) to Rule 4-228, Receiverships. The proposed amendments will be published for members' comments before being forwarded to the Court.

#### Rule 7.3, Advertising Rule Amendments

Following a report by Paula Frederick, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved recommending to the Supreme Court of Georgia proposed amendments (Exhibit E) to Rule 7.3, Advertising Rules. The proposed amendments will be published for members' comments before being forwarded to the Court.

#### Next Generation Courts Commission

Following a report by Judge Lawton Stephens, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the recommendations (Exhibit F) of the Next Generation Courts Commission as outlined in its Executive Summary. The Commission heard from a variety of respondents about issues currently facing the courts, and looked at trends likely to affect the courts in the next ten to fifteen years. The Commission will next develop a long-term strategy and proposed action plan based on the recommendations.

#### YLD Report

YLD President Darrell Sutton addressed the Board of Governors and presented an overview of his proposed program of activities for the 2013-2014 Bar year. He thanked former YLD President Jon Pannell for all of his accomplishments as President. This year will be characterized by service to the YLD members around the state who have been impacted by the downturn in the economy. He will be taking the YLD on the road to meet with and visit all of the 12 local YLD affiliates around the state. He will be reaching out to the law schools to start a fellows program wherein a 3L from each of Georgia's law schools will be named a fellow and serve on the YLD Executive Council. He will continue to strengthen the Bar's legislative program, and has invited State Bar legislative consultant Jim Collins and grassroots coordinator Zack Johnson to attend each YLD meeting to inform young lawyers about the legislative process and encourage them to run for office. Lastly, he will continue with and seek permanent funding for the YLD Public Interest Internship Program. The Board of Governors also received a written report on the YLD Committees, Programs and Projects.

#### 2014 Legislation Preview

Rusty Sewell provided a recap of the Bar's 2012-13 legislative program and a preview of the 2014 legislative session. President Ruffin recognized the Bar's legislative consultants and thanked them for their work during this year's legislative session: Rusty Sewell, Jim Collins, Meredith Weaver, Roy Robinson, and grass roots coordinator Zach Johnson.

#### ABA

Paula Frederick announced that the ABA House of Delegates will be meeting in August and that she will be providing Board members with copies of the proposals the Delegates will be considering at that meeting.

#### Office of General Counsel

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

Fee Arbitration Program

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the activities of the Fee Arbitration Program.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the activities of the Fee Arbitration Program.

Military Legal Assistance Program

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

Professionalism Committee

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Committee on Professionalism.

Unlicensed Practice of Law Program

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

Transition into Law Practice Program

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

Real Estate Task Force

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Real Estate Task Force.

Section Annual Reports

The Board of Governors received written annual reports from the following Sections: Aviation, Business Law, Child Protection and Advocacy, Creditors' Rights, Family Law, General Practice and Trial Law, Individual Rights Law, Intellectual Property Law, Judicial, Local Government Law, Military and Veterans Law, Nonprofit Law, Taxation Law, Technology Law, and Workers' Compensation.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Remarks, Questions/Answers, Comments and Suggestions

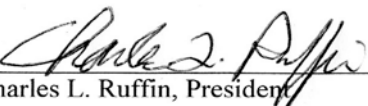
The President opened up the meeting for questions and comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Rita A. Sheffey, Secretary

Approved:

  
Charles L. Ruffin, President