

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES
June 7, 2014
Omni Amelia Island Resort/Amelia Island, FL**

The 253rd 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.

Special Recognition

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

Recognition of New Officers and Board Members

President Perkins-Hooker recognized the new Officers and Board of Governors members.

Roll Call

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

Future Meetings Schedule

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

State of the Georgia Law Department

Attorney General Sam Olens delivered the State of the Georgia Law Department.

Consent Agenda

President Perkins-Hooker 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

Formal Advisory Opinion Board:

Georgia Trial Lawyers Association: David Neal Leftkowitz (2015)

Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers: Holly Veal (2016)

Georgia District Attorneys Association: Kenneth W. Mauldin (2016)

Emory University: Melissa D. Carter (2016)

Georgia State University: Nicole Gail Iannarone (2016)

Investigative Panel Rep: Katie Wood (2015)

Review Panel Rep: Charles B. Marsh (2015)

At-Large: Mary Prebula (2016)

Letitia A. McDonald (2016)

Jeffrey Hobert Schneider (2016)

Investigative Panel:

District 5: William H. Thomas (2016)

District 6: Delia T. Crouch (2016)

District 7: Christopher A. Townley (2016)

2) Approval of 2014-14 Standing, Special, Program Committees and Boards

Copies were distributed at the meeting.

- 3) Georgia Legal Services Appointments
Reappointments of Patrick Flinn, Patricia Gorham, Wade Herring, Tamera Woodward, and appointment of Russell Bonds, for two-year terms.
- 4) Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Appointment
Reappointment of A. James Elliott and appointment of Kyle Williams, for three-year terms.
- 5) 2014-15 State Bar Election Schedule
As shown in the Board book.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Designation of Depositories for General Operations of State Bar of Georgia (as revised below)
Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws, that the State Bar of Georgia and related entities open appropriate accounts with such banks in Georgia, but excluding any bank that does 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, 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: the Treasurer, the Secretary, the President, the Immediate Past President, the President Elect, the Executive Director, the Office Manager and the General Counsel provided either the President, the Secretary or the 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 of such revocation of authority and in writing, acknowledge receipt thereof.
- 8) 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 is designated as the independent auditing firm to audit the financial records of the State Bar for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

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

Report of the President

President Perkins-Hooker addressed the Board of Governors and presented an overview of her proposed program of activities for the 2014-2015 Bar year (Exhibit B).

Special Presentation

President Perkins-Hooker presented an award to Sharon Bryant for her commitment, service and leadership as interim leader of the State Bar.

Executive Committee Election

The Executive Committee election was held with the following results:

Election 1:

Nominations:

Candidate: Eric A. Ballinger
Nominator: S. Lester Tate, III
Seconded: Lester B. Johnson, III

Results:

Candidate: Phyllis J. Holmen
Nominator: Patricia Gorham
Seconded: Damon E. Elmore

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Kenneth B. Hodges, III
Nominator: Robin Frazer Clark
Seconded: Joseph W. Dent

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Daniel Brent Snipes
Nominator: John Flanders Kennedy
Seconded: Elena Kaplan

Candidate: Nicki Noel Vaughan
Nominator: Judge Lawton E. Stephens
Seconded: Amy V. Howell

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

YLD Report

YLD President Sharri Edenfield addressed the Board of Governors and presented an overview of her proposed program of activities for the 2014-15 Bar year. As a big supporter of the military, she plans to reach out to military lawyers on bases around Georgia to head up an effort geared towards young lawyers and to complement the efforts of the Military Legal Assistance Program. She will expand the YLD's community outreach efforts by growing existing programs such as the Legal Food Frenzy and the Wills Project. She will create a lawyers and library program wherein young lawyers will offer pro bono legal services at local libraries on Saturdays. She will continue the YLD's strong emphasis on the high school mock trial program. She is creating a task force, led by Josh Bosin and Brantley Rowlen, to help close the gap between people who need legal services and young lawyers who need jobs. She thanked outgoing YLD President Darrell Sutton for his accomplishments and gave him an opportunity to recap his Bar year. The Board of Governors also received a written report on the YLD committees, programs and projects for the 2013-14 Bar year.

Legislation

Dan Snipes (2013-14 ACL Chair) and Thomas Worthy provided a recap of the 2014 legislative session. Thereafter, Senator Dan Ramsey presented a Senate Resolution to President Perkins-Hooker. Thomas Worthy announced the lawyer legislators going back to the General Assembly and provided a preview of the upcoming legislative session. The Board of Governors received a written Annual Report on the Legislative Activities of the State Bar of Georgia for 2014.

Activities in the Circuits

Eric Ballinger, the Blue Ridge Circuit Board of Governors representative, reported on the activities of the Blue Ridge Circuit Bar Association.

Judge Render Heard, Jr., the Tifton Circuit Board of Governors representative, reported on the activities of the Tifton Bar Association. He recognized Bonne Cella, Director of the South Georgia Office, for her assistance to the Tifton Bar.

Donna S. Hix, the Chattahoochee Circuit Board of Governors representative, provided an overview of her circuit and the activities of the Columbus Bar Association.

A report by Harold B. Watts, the Clayton Circuit, Post Board of Governors representative, was deferred to the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rita Sheffey reported on the Bar's finances and investments. She congratulated President Perkins-Hooker and Executive Director Jeff Davis on their new positions, and thanked outgoing Treasurer Bob Kauffman and CFO Steve Laine for their help and assistance with her transition from Secretary to Treasurer. The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenue and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2014, the Operations Only and Bar Center Only Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2014, the Summary of Selected Payment Information for the Periods of March 31, 2012-2014, and the Balance Sheet for March 31, 2014.

2014-15 State Bar Budgets

Following a report by Secretary Sheffey, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the proposed 2014-2015 State Bar Operating and Bar Center Budgets as presented (Exhibit C).

Intellectual Property Law Section Bylaws Amendments

Following a report by President Perkins-Hooker, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the proposed amended Bylaws of the Intellectual Property Law Section.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received a copy of the action taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting on February 21-22, 2014.

Office of General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a memo with the link to access the online annual 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 Law Practice Management Program.

Military Legal Assistance Program

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

Unlicensed Practice of Law Program

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

Transition into Law Practice Program

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

Consumer Assistance Program

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

Civil Legal Services Task Force

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the activities of the Civil Legal Service Task Force.

Member Benefits Committee: Private Insurance Exchange

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Private Insurance Exchange.

Long-Range Planning Committee

The Board of Governors received a copy of the minutes of the Long-Range Planning Committee meeting on February 24, 2014.

Access to Justice Committee

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the activities of the Access to Justice Committee.

2014 Law Day Program

The Board of Governors received a copy of the *2014 Law Day Program: American Democracy and the Rule of Law – Why Every Vote Counts*.

Georgia Legal Services Program

The Board of Governors received a written annual report on the activities of the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

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

Section Annual Reports

The Board of Governors received written annual reports from the following Sections: Animal Law, Antitrust, Child Protection and Advocacy, Eminent Domain, Family Law, Intellectual Property Law, Military and Veterans Law, Products Liability Law, School and College Law, and Taxation Law.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second and unanimous voice vote, the Board of Governors met in Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. Thereafter, the Board of Governors unanimously voted to move out of Executive Session.

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.

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