

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, February 21, 2013
State Bar Building/Atlanta, GA**

Members Present:

Robin Frazer Clark, President; Charles L. Ruffin, President-elect; Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, Treasurer; Robert J. Kauffman; Secretary; Kenneth L. Shigley, Immediate Past President; Jonathan B. Pannell, YLD President; Darrell L. Sutton, YLD President-elect; Stephanie J. Kirijan, YLD Immediate Past President; Elizabeth Louise Fite; Phyllis J. Holmen; David S. Lipscomb; Patrick T. O'Connor; Brian D. Rogers (by phone); and Rita A. Sheffey.

Staff Participating:

Cliff Brashier, Executive Director; Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; and Bob McCormack, Deputy General Counsel.

Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the January 30, 2013, Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted by unanimous voice vote.

Future Meetings Schedule

The Executive Committee received a copy of the most recent Future Meetings Schedule. President-elect Buck Ruffin announced that the Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta Hotel will host the 2014 Midyear January 9-12. President Clark announced that there will not be a March Executive Committee meeting unless a conference call is needed to discuss last minute legislative issues.

Approval of Members' Requests

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, granted an appeal to waive fitness by Bar member Brandi Rice.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved the following resignation requests: Henry L. Paseur, Jr., 565725; and Emily Hitchcock, 357697.

50th Anniversary of the State Bar of Georgia

President-elect Ruffin reported that as part of the 50th Anniversary of the State Bar of Georgia he would like to produce a desktop book on the history of the legal profession in Georgia. It is to be a comprehensive one-volume historical account of the legal profession and justice system in Georgia, covering nearly 300 years of progress from General Oglethorpe's arrival at Savannah through the establishment of the Georgia Bar Association, followed by the efforts for unification of the Bar up to and including the 21st Century of the State Bar. He would like to retain the services of Linton Johnson to begin working on the history this year at a cost of \$25,000 plus out of pocket expenses. Next year, another \$10,000-\$25,000 will be needed to complete the project as necessary, and printing 500 copies of a 200-page book is estimated to be \$58,859. Following that, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved spending \$25,000 plus out of pocket expenses for Linton Johnson in this year's Cornerstones of Freedom budget. Also in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration, he announced that he is planning a dinner and special awards ceremony during the 2014 Midyear Meeting.

Rule 1-208. Resignation from Membership

Following a report by Bob McCormack, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved recommending to the Board of Governors proposed changes, as revised (Exhibit A), to Rule 1-208 Resignation from Membership.

State Bar Credit Card Policy Amendment

Following a report by Treasurer Patrise Perkins-Hooker, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed amendments (Exhibit B) to the State Bar Credit Card Policy.

Employee Travel Reimbursement Policy

Following a report by Treasurer Perkins-Hooker, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed amendments (Exhibit C) to the State Bar Travel Reimbursement Policy.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Patrise Perkins-Hooker provided a report on the Bar's finances. The Executive Committee received copies of the Revenues and Expenditures, Income Statement YTD, Balance Sheet, and Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Executive Summary for the six months ending December 31, 2012.

Dues 2013-14 Recommendation to the Board of Governors

Following a report by Treasurer Perkins-Hooker, and in consideration of the recommendations submitted by the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved submitting the following recommendations to the Board of Governors for approval:

1. Increasing dues by \$6 from the previous year, so as to index for the Military Legal Assistance Program, the Review Panel Counsel, and the Pro Bono Project (that portion previously funded by IOLTA), to \$246 for active members and \$123 for inactive members, and
2. A one-time \$2 credit reduction from reserves which have accumulated from excellent financial performance of the State Bar's operations, thereby reducing dues to \$244; and
3. Increasing the Board Designated Operating Reserves to \$2.75 million from the current \$2 million; and
4. Section dues to be reflected on the dues statement ranging from \$10-\$35; and
5. Continuation of assessments required by Bar Rules regarding the Clients' Security Fund (\$100 @ \$25/year) and Bar Center Facility (\$200 @ \$50/year); and
6. Continuation of a \$100 opt-out contribution for the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
7. Maintaining the current suggested \$250 opt-in provision for Georgia Legal Services Program.

The Executive Committee received 1) a history of State Bar dues from 2008-2013, 2) the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on February 2, 2103, 3) the minutes of the Programs Committee meeting on January 17, 2013, 4) the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting on January 11, 2013, 5) the 2013-2014 Budget Timetable, 6) the 2013-2014 proposed State Bar of Georgia Budget (1st draft) and Bar Center Budget.

Dues Statement Format

Following a report by Treasurer Perkins-Hooker on the proposed dues statement format, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved the format as modified.

Executive Session

Upon a motion and second, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session.

Sponsorship Request - 9th Judicial Administrative District's 2nd Annual Best Practices Conference

Following a report by Valeria Lyle and by the Honorable Amanda Mercier, Superior Court Judge and Chair of the Ninth Judicial Administrative District ADR program, the Executive Committee, by majority voice vote, denied a \$2500 sponsorship request for the 9th Judicial Administrative District's 2nd Annual Best Practices Conference so as not to create a precedent for funding local judicial conferences.

S.B. 141 – Patient Injury Act

Following a report by President Clark, the Executive Committee took the following action on proposed S.B. 141:

1. By unanimous voice vote, found the subject matter to be within the legitimate purposes of the Bar, and
2. By unanimous voice vote, determined that immediate Executive Committee action was necessary since the Board of Governors will not be meeting until March 9, 2013, and
3. By unanimous voice vote, opposed S.B. 141.

H.B. 242 - Juvenile Code

President Clark provided a report on H.B. 242, the Juvenile Code rewrite, and legislative action taken under Standing Board Policy 100, Section 1.03, favorably supporting the proposed legislation.

2013 General Assembly Update

The Executive Committee received a list of legislative bills of interest and to watch that was prepared by Jim Collins. Immediate Past President Ken Shigley reported that the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee is creating a legislative standing committee to bring all of the groups together who are working on a unified E-filing system. Rusty Sewell provided an update on bills endorsed by the State Bar and bills to keep an eye on.

YLD Report

YLD President Jon Pannell provided a report on the activities of the Young Lawyers Division. He thanked the Executive Committee for attending the day's YLD Legislative Luncheon. He reminded everyone that the Signature Fundraiser will take place on March 2, 2013, at the Brookhaven Capital City Club. To date, the Signature Fundraiser has raised over \$50,000 through sponsors. He announced that the YLD Spring Meeting will be held at the King & Prince Hotel on St. Simons Island the weekend of April 4-7, 2013.

Lawyer Assistance Program 2013-14 Budget

Following a report by Cliff Brashier, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved setting the 2013-14 LAP budget at \$55,000 to increase Bar members' three (3) clinical assessment and support sessions per issue per year to six (6) per year, as was recommended by the Programs Committee at its meeting on January 17, 2013.

President's Report

Cliff Brashier reported that the recent suicide in the State Bar's parking deck led to a review of the State Bar's general liability insurance and umbrella policy. In addition, OGC was asked to draft for review at a future Executive Committee meeting a disaster and business continuity plan for the Bar. President Clark announced the formation of a Suicide Prevention and Awareness Committee that will be working on new ideas to make State Bar members, their colleagues, family and friends more aware of the risk of suicide and the resources available to help prevent it. A video on suicide prevention is also being produced for the Bar's web site to increase awareness among the legal community and to, hopefully, increase knowledge of what to do to help.

President Clark provided an update on her meeting and continued work with Secretary of State Brian Kemp and Deputy Secretary of State Kelly Farr to address the many issues State Bar members have regarding the Secretary of State's new website.

President Clark reported that her letters to editors around the state, recognizing Georgia lawyers for their community and other service, have reached over a million people in circulation, and that she continues to receive high praise and thanks for them from Bar members.

President Clark reported that the Georgia Legal Services Program has asked the UPL Committee to issue an advisory opinion that affirms that, notwithstanding House Bill 683, filing an answer on behalf of a corporate garnishee remains the practice of law, as stated by the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Long-Range Planning and Bar Governance Committee

The Executive Committee received a copy of the January 10, 2013, minutes of the Long-Range Planning and Bar Governance Committee.

Law School Outreach Committee

The Executive Committee received information on the January 12, 2013, meeting of the Law School Outreach Committee.

Old Business

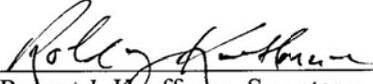
There was no old business.

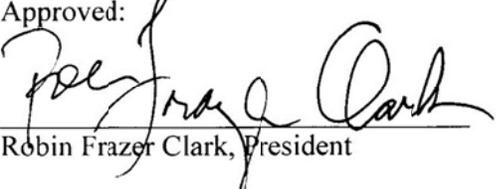
New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned.


Robert J. Kruffman, Secretary

Approved:

Robin Frazer Clark, President