

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
December 5, 2025, 10 a.m.
Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta
Atlanta, GA**

Members Participating

Christopher Twyman, President; William “Bill” Gentry, President-Elect; Javoyne Hicks, Treasurer; Shiriki Jones, Secretary; Ivy Cadle, Immediate Past President; Veronica Cox, YLD President; Virginia Josey, YLD President-Elect; Thua Barlay; Bert Hummel; Joyce Gist Lewis; David Lipscomb; Gary Spencer; and Martin Valbuena.

Members Absent

Kenneth Mitchell Jr., YLD Immediate Past President.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Jenn McNeely, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer; and Russ Willard, General Counsel.

Call to Order

President Chris Twyman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Chris Twyman reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule, including the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Shiriki Jones presented for approval the minutes of August 21, 2025, and September 9, 2025, Executive Committee meetings, which were passed, as amended, by unanimous vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous vote: Daniel Ragon Barnett-039162, Lawton Joseph Bearden-297330, James Cory Benenati-367758, Jeanette Hait Blanco-316360, Jeanna Ann Brannon-077675, Todd Michael Campbell-107025, Lesley G. Carroll-296264, Phillip G. Conrad-182417, Christopher John Culp-200740, Robert L. Daily-195901, Megan Smith Demicco-100636, Lori Lynne Doran-225880, Jennifer Duck-231456, Julianna Theall Earp-703970, Victoria Margaret Endriss-248522, William James Haynes II-340730, LaCretia Lynn Head-311095, Kaanji L. Irby-356142, Shonah Patrice Jefferson-390024, Stanley Andrew Maciejczyk,III-412905, Daniel I. MacIntyre IV-463400, Christopher William Madel-641270, Susan Anne Meredith-002332, Christopher E. Penna-571327, Katrina Michelle Phillip-982775, Sangeetha Rao-592806, Matthew Eston Rone-586489, Terri Lyn Rosen-614444, Johnathan Carlton Ryan-223712, Ellen Davis Salm-208275, Timothy P. Sceviour-628524, Shameka Nicole Smith-130118, Nathalie Pinero Smith-163893, Richard H. Taylor-701115, Amberly Warner Wait-737897, Amanda Schlager Wick-109711, Teresa Gonzalez Wilkinson-001027, Robert Douglas Wilson-768891, Maha Saleh Zaki-784223.

Members Requesting Disability

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved four requests for disabled status by unanimous vote.

Appeal to Waive Late Fees

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved a request to waive late fees.

Proposed Changes to the State Bar Conference Center Internal Policy

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved the proposed changes to the State Bar Conference Center Internal Policy and requested that Bar staff keep a record of all waivers and decisions that are granted.

Proposed Rule Change

Article IV, Section 3. Misconduct

The Office of the General Counsel recommends that the Bylaw provision that was adopted during this past Bar year be modified due to situations that have arisen since the adoption of this bylaw by the membership. Specifically, at least one situation has arisen, and likely additional situations will arise in the future, where an investigation is conducted by the Office of the General Counsel which results in a finding that the Executive Committee should take action under subsection h, including the potential banning of a member from attendance at one or more future events or having their attendance restricted by certain conditions imposed by the Executive Committee. However, the current Article IV, Section 3, sub-section (h) appears to limit the ability of the Executive Committee to ban or place restrictions on attendance to situations where a member (or the member's guest) was requested to leave an event.

To deal with situations that may lie outside the current parameters of the bylaw, such as an event concluding before the incident is made known to appropriate State Bar personnel or law enforcement, the member who is subject to the complaint has left the event prior to any action being taken, or the misconduct occurs in interaction with Bar volunteers or staff outside of an event, it is requested that the bylaw be amended to enable the Executive Committee to take action upon the conclusion of an investigation by the Office of the General Counsel, even if no action was taken against that person at the event(s) in question.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed bylaw change as amended, removing the typographical error "of" in subsection (b).

Rule 10-103. Funding for the Clients' Security Fund

The Office of the General Counsel recommends that Rule 10-103 be amended because, due to the current wording of the Rule, the Trustees are forbidden from spending down any surplus that has been built up in the fund, as they may not spend more than what is received, via the annual assessment, in a single year. This change allows them to spend up to the annual assessment plus any surplus funds from prior Bar Years.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed rule change as presented.

Legislative Consultant Agreement

Executive Director Damon Elmore presented State Bar Lobbyist Roy Robinson's 2026 contract, which the Executive Committee approved unanimously.

YLD Report

YLD President Veronica Cox reported that the YLD has had a productive beginning to the Bar year, hosting 20 events including CLEs, social gatherings, and various programs. She said the upcoming spring season is expected to be even more robust, with plans to meet or exceed the number of events from the previous year. Key events include the Signature Fundraiser on February 28 in Macon, supporting Middle Georgia

Justice, with tickets and sponsorship opportunities now available. Additionally, the standalone YLD Spring Meeting is planned for April 23-25 in Asheville, with registration details to be announced in the coming months, including a Pro Bono Power Hour and a brewery social. YLD President Cox said a limited series YLD podcast featuring hosts Bert Hummel and Ron Daniels will be launched this month. She said *The YLD Review* will continue to provide quality articles and materials in its newsletter, and thanked President Chris Twyman for highlighting YLD members by having them deliver the pledge and invocation at Board of Governors meetings. She also noted that the annual holiday luncheon would be held today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Academy, followed by the holiday party scheduled for later in the evening.

President's Report

President Chris Twyman expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Executive Committee for their dedication to the Bar and the public. He acknowledged the ongoing challenges faced by various committees, particularly the Attorney-Client Solicitation Committee, which recently experienced leadership changes and dissatisfaction. He emphasized the importance of maintaining open lines of communication and encouraging committee members to address issues constructively. President Twyman said that efforts are underway to appoint new leadership for the committee, with plans to refocus its mission and initiatives. Additionally, the Access to Justice Committee launched a survey to assess pro bono participation.

President Twyman's report also highlighted the progress of the Rule of Law initiative, which includes scripts for high school mock trial coaches to use to help educate students and videos featuring distinguished attorneys discussing the importance of the rule of law for use in the Bar's Journey Through Justice Program. He provided an update on efforts to attract tenants to the Bar's property at 104 Marietta Street, aiming to turn it into an economic asset rather than a liability. He mentioned the release of the AI toolkit, alongside the recent approval of changes to the CLE rules by the Supreme Court. He concluded by thanking the Bar staff for their hard work and commitment to advancing the mission of the Bar.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on the Bar's recent activities and initiatives. He highlighted ongoing efforts in economic development and operational improvements, including a potential overhaul of the Bar's parking vendor, which aims to reduce expenses and increase revenue. Additionally, he noted positive developments regarding potential tenants for the building, facilitated by the efforts of broker Juan Mendoza. With many commercial leases nearing expiration, he said there's increasing interest from both traditional and mission-aligned organizations, creating favorable conditions for securing new tenants.

Executive Director Elmore also addressed building operations, emphasizing the importance of plumbing and water pressure as key safety and operational concerns. He said there's a strong collaboration with Cushman that has improved the management of immediate needs and long-term projects, with productive weekly meetings enhancing transparency and accountability. His report further highlighted progress on strategic priorities, including the Rule of Law initiative and advancements in the Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology Committee. Regulatory updates included the official implementation of new CLE rules and a focus on refreshing the Fee Arbitration Program. Lastly, preparations for the Annual Meeting are progressing well, with renovations at Omni Amelia Island underway, promising improved experiences for all attendees.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Javoyne Hicks presented the financial report as of Sept. 30, 2025, highlighting that the current financials are detailed in the meeting materials. She reported there are no negative or significant surprises, with everything on track for the year. The Executive Committee was provided with a memo explaining budget expense variances of \$2,500 or more. Treasurer Hicks reported that the Bar's audit has successfully been completed with no adjustments required, thanks to the diligence of Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner and his team.

Office of the General Counsel Report

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the litigation report. Thereafter, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session by unanimous voice vote. They stated that they adopted and approved the recommendation of General Counsel Russ Willard to the voluntary agreement of a particular Bar member to not attend any in-person ICLE program or to contact a particular Bar employee. It was also noted that they had a robust discussion about the Attorney-Client Solicitation Committee. It is under the Executive Committee's assessment.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee liaisons to State Bar committees provided updates regarding the committees to which they are assigned.

Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Jennifer McNeely reported that the Advisory Committee on Legislation meeting will be held next week. The Board of Governors will then review the ACL's recommendations at the Midyear Meeting in January. She announced a new collaborative effort of the Governmental Affairs Department, the Young Lawyers Division, and the Law Practice Management Program that is designed to be nonpartisan and informational, with the goal of helping lawyers better understand the role attorneys play in the legislative process and encouraging thoughtful consideration of public service. The upcoming program will feature a moderated panel of current lawyer-legislators from diverse practice backgrounds, discussing the practical realities of legislative service; and a fireside chat with three former lawyer-legislators, offering candid reflections on public service, career impact, and lessons learned. She said there will be additional programs with more focused information later in the year.

Board of Governors Minutes

The minutes of the Fall Board of Governors meeting, held on October 11, 2025, were provided as informational material.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

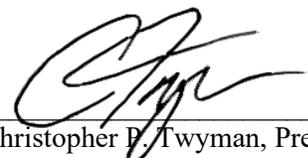
There were no announcements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.


Shiriki Cavitt Jones, Secretary

Approved:


Christopher P. Twyman, President