



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**January 19 & 20, 2024**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**\* MINUTES \***

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024**

President Shayna L. Sonnier called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., Friday, January 19, 2024, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. Business was conducted in accordance with the agenda below.

### **Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Ms. Larsen called roll and advised that the following members, who constituted a quorum, participated:

President, Shayna L. Sonnier  
Treasurer, Larry J. Centola III  
Secretary, Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Immediate Past President, Stephen I. Dwyer  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Senae D. Hall  
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.  
First Board District Representative, Graham H. Ryan  
Second Board District Representative, Jeffrey G. Lagarde  
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson  
Fifth Board District Representative, Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais (by phone)  
Sixth Board District Representative, Charles D. Elliott  
Seventh Board District Representative, W. Michael Street  
Eighth Board District Representative, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.  
At-Large Member, Blake R. David (by phone)  
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs  
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
From the Faculty of Southern University Law Center, Donald W. North  
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Shannon Seiler Dartez

Also present were:

From the Leadership LSBA 2023/2024 Class:

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Andrew Albritton  
Catherine Carrier  
Trinity Goines  
President-Elect Designee, Edward J. Walters, Jr.  
Treasurer-Elect, C.A. “Hap” Martin III  
Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky  
Access to Justice Director, Monte T. Mollere (by phone)  
Communications Director, Kelly W. Ponder  
Director of Member Outreach and Diversity, Tricia R. Pierre  
Executive Assistant, Jennifer France

Absent were:

President-Elect, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier  
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock

**Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – Consideration of approval of minutes of November 10, 2023 meeting.
- b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Doguet, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar without discussion or debate.

**Agenda Item 3. Ratification of Email Votes – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ratification of the following email votes:

- a. November 14, 2023 vote to recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court the appointment of Edward J. Walters, Jr. as the LSBA’s representative on the LADB Administrative Committee; and
- b. Approval of November 15, 2023 Resolution to disband the Community Action Committee and cease all activities previously facilitated by that committee; and to take any and all additional actions necessary to comply with the Fifth Circuit’s November 13, 2023 opinion in the *Boudreaux* litigation.

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Doguet, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the two email votes.

**Agenda Item 4. Budget Committee Recommendations – Larry J. Centola**

Mr. Centola reviewed the proposed amendments to the FY 2023/2024 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, which amendments resulted in a positive impact on the budget. Upon motion

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by Mr. Joseph and second by Ms. Wallace, the Board unanimously approved the amendments as recommended by the Budget Committee.

**Agenda Item 5. Approval of At-Large Appointment – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

On behalf of Mr. Talley, Ms. Sonnier asked for authorization from the Board to make his three-year at-large appointment, with Board ratification to follow at the Board's spring meeting. The position begins at the close of the 2024 Annual Meeting and ends at the close of the 2027 Annual Meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Sonnier's request.

**Agenda Item 6. Andrew Casanave Resolution – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier reviewed the resolution from Andrew M. Casanave proposing that the LSBA support legislation granting parity of funding both for the Louisiana Public Defender Board and for public defenders themselves. After a brief discussion, the Board took no action on the resolution.

**Agenda Item 7. Review of House of Delegates Agenda – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier reviewed the House agenda and resolutions for the January 20, 2024 meeting.

**Agenda Item 8. LSBA Elections – Shayna L. Sonnier**

- a. Final disposition of 2023-2024 elections.
- b. Discussion regarding election notifications.

Ms. Sonnier reviewed the results of the second-round elections and congratulated Ms. Dartez on her election to the Nominating Committee.

**Agenda Item 9. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier reported JLAP had submitted its mandatory reports to the LSBA and that third quarter funding had been released. She added that operations are going well and Dr. Bazile continues to conduct presentations across the state.

**Agenda Item 10. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Senae D. Hall**

Ms. Hall reported as follows:

- a. The YLD Professional Development Seminar was held virtually earlier in the day and that a number of excellent speakers presented to 85 participants;
- b. Planning for the April, 12 2024 Young Lawyers Conference is well underway and will be held in New Orleans;
- c. Wills for Heroes events are continuing;
- d. Spring events include Barristers for Boards; and
- e. The YLD has one resolution on the January 20 House agenda, and asked Board members for their support.

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**Agenda Item 11. Report of the Treasurer – Larry J. Centola III**

Mr. Centola waived his report, as all matters had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 12. Report of the Secretary – Valerie T. Schexnayder**

Ms. Schexnayder reported that the Editorial Board met the previous day and had a robust discussion about content.

**Agenda Item 13. Report of the Immediate Past President – Stephen I. Dwyer**

Mr. Dwyer waived his report.

**Agenda Item 14. Report of the President-Elect – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

- a. Strategic Planning – Mr. Ryan reported on the strategic planning committee meeting held the day prior. They plan to send a survey to membership in March and meet again in September.
- b. 2024-2025 Board of Governors/YLD Council Orientation – Ms. Sonnier announced that the 2024-2025 Board of Governors/YLD Council Orientation would be held May 2 – 5, 2024 in Point Clear, and asked returning Board members to mark their calendars.

In Mr. Talley's absence, Ms. Sonnier reported on the initial meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee, which is being chaired by Mr. Ryan. At Ms. Sonnier's request, Mr. Ryan provided an overview of the process, which he indicated will culminate with a September 2024 retreat which will include members of the Board of Governors.

**Agenda Item 15. Report of the President – Shayna L. Sonnier**

- a. **Spring Meeting** – Ms. Sonnier announced that the meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19, in New Orleans, with more information to follow in the immediate future.
- b. **2024 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyer and Judges**  
Ms. Sonnier reported that plans for the meeting were underway and encouraged Board members to attend.
- c. **CLE Opportunities** – Announcement of upcoming programs:
  - **Charm of Quebec City CLE**  
Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 1, 2024  
Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac  
Quebec City, Quebec

Ms. Sonnier encouraged Board members to attend this CLE.

**Agenda Item 16. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen waived her report.

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**Agenda Item 17. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky**  
Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report.

**Agenda Item 18. Departmental Report – Monte Mollere**  
Mr. Mollere referred members to his written report and asked members to send nominations for Pro Bono Awards recipients.

**Executive Session**

At 3:02 p.m., Mr. Johnson moved that the Board go into the Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Mr. Street and unanimously approved by the Board. The Executive Session ended at 3:40 p.m.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024**

President Sonnier reconvened the Board at 10:55 a.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024, immediately following the adjournment of the House of Delegates meeting. The following Board members participated:

President, Shayna L. Sonnier  
President-Elect, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Immediate Past President, Stephen I. Dwyer  
Treasurer, Larry J. Centola III  
Secretary, Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Senae D. Hall  
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.  
Second Board District Representative, Jeffrey G. Lagarde  
Fifth Board District Representative, Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
Sixth Board District Representative, Charles D. Elliott  
Seventh Board District Representative, W. Michael Street  
Eighth Board District Representative, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.  
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs  
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Shannon Seiler Dartez

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Also present were:

President-Elect Designee, Edward J. Walters, Jr.  
Treasurer-Elect, C.A. Hap Martin III  
Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

Absent were:

First Board District Representative, Graham H. Ryan  
Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier  
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson  
Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais  
At-Large Member, Blake R. David  
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock  
From the Faculty of Southern University Law Center, Donald W. North

Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Mr. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to ratify all action of the House of Delegates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Valerie T. Schexnayder*

Valerie T. Schexnayder  
2023-2025 Secretary  
Louisiana State Bar Association

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
APRIL 18, 2024  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**