



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**January 17 & 18, 2025**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**\* M I N U T E S \***

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025**

President Patrick A. Talley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., Friday, January 17, 2025, 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, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
President-Elect, Edward J. Walters, Jr.  
Secretary, Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Treasurer, C.A. "Hap" Martin III  
Immediate Past President, Shayna L. Sonnier  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Kristen D. Amond  
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 (by phone)  
Fifth Board District Representative, Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais  
Sixth Board District Representative, Barry M. Barnett (by phone)  
Seventh Board District Representative, Amy J. Miller  
Eighth Board District Representative, Senae D. Hall  
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs  
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock  
At-Large Member, Tina L. Suggs  
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 Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Shannon Seiler Dartez  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby

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Also present were:

President-Elect Designee, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.  
Secretary-Elect, Bradley J. Tate  
LBF President, Hon. John Davidson  
From the Leadership LSBA 2024/2025 Class:  
Catherine R. Filippi  
Hailey E. Manint  
Daisha D. Myles  
Gary Williams II  
Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky  
Practice Management/Loss Prevention Counsel, Shawn Holohan  
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, Jen France

Absent were:

Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Aaron R. Wilson

**Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – Consideration of approval of minutes of October 18, 2024 meeting.
- b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.

Upon motion by Ms. Sonnier and second by Mr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar without discussion or debate.

**Agenda Item 3. Budget Committee Recommendations – C.A. “Hap” Martin III**

Mr. Martin reviewed the proposed amendments to the FY 2024/2025 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, which amendments resulted in a \$20,000 positive impact on the budget. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Sonnier, the Board unanimously approved the amendments as recommended by the Budget Committee.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of At-Large Appointment – Edward J. Walters, Jr.**

Mr. Walters asked the Board for approval of Daniel A. Cavell of Thibodaux as his at-large appointment to the Board of Governors for a three-year term beginning at the close of the 2025 Annual Meeting and ending at the close of the 2028 Annual Meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Walters and second by Mr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appointment.

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**Agenda Item 5. LSBA Appointment to Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Administrative Committee – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley asked the Board to consider the appointment of Robert A. Kutcher of Metairie to the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Administrative Committee for a term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2025. Current appointee Edward J. Walters, Jr. of Baton Rouge has completed his first one-year term but does not wish to be reappointed due to other commitments. Upon motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Kutcher's appointment.

**Agenda Item 6. ReliaGuide – Ashley J. Cambre and Loretta Larsen**

Mr. Cambre asked the Board to consider partnering with ReliaGuide to handle the membership database on LSBA.org. After a lengthy discussion concerning the potential impact of allowing what might be considered lawyer advertising on LSBA.org, it was the consensus of the Board to defer further consideration and refer this to the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee.

**Agenda Item 7. Smokeball – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky and Shawn Holohan**

Ms. Grodsky introduced LSBA Practice Management Counsel Shawn Holohan who reviewed the proposed member Smokeball benefit. Ms. Holohan reviewed the proposal which is to offer a free trust accounting and billing software product to LSBA members. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Riggs moved to approve the benefit, subject to the negotiation of the marketing agreement and approval by the Executive Committee of same. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Agenda Item 8. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett Lecture – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley discussed the spring Board meeting and events to take place on April 6 and 7 in New Orleans which will include a lecture by Justice Barrett scheduled for Monday, April 7.

**Agenda Item 9. MCLE Age-Based Exemption – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley reviewed the current exemption for lawyers 65 and older from compliance with mandatory continuing legal education requirements, which exemption has been in place since Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXX went into effect on January 1, 1988.

After a lengthy discussion and upon motion by Ms. Dartez and second by Ms. Sonnier, the Board approved the following, with Mr. North, Mr. Lagarde and Mr. Riggs voting against:

BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Talley, on behalf of the Board of Governors, propose to the Supreme Court the removal of the exemption for eligible lawyers age 65 and older, with the specific requirement to be determined by the Supreme Court, provided that it be at least five hours per year, with one hour being ethics and one being professionalism.

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**Agenda Item 10. Strategic Planning Report – Graham H. Ryan**

Mr. Ryan updated members on the progress to date and referred members to the Strategic Planning agenda for the January 18, 2025 retreat.

**Agenda Item 11. Review of House of Delegates Agenda – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley reviewed the House agenda and resolution for the January 18, 2025 meeting.

**Agenda Item 12. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – Edward J. Walters, Jr. and J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.**

- a. **Update on JLAP Operations** – Mr. Walters reported to the Board that operations were going well and JLAP is financially sound.
- b. **JLAP Wellness in the Legal Profession Task Force** – Mr. Zainey reported that the goal of the Task Force is to focus on mental well-being of lawyers.

**Agenda Item 13. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Kristen D. Amond**

Ms. Amond had to leave the Board meeting early to attend the Young Lawyers Division meeting, so there was no YLD report.

**Agenda Item 14. Report of the Treasurer – C.A. “Hap” Martin III**

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

**Agenda Item 15. Report of the Secretary – Valerie T. Schexnayder**

Ms. Schexnayder reported that the Editorial Board met the previous day. She noted that several articles are in progress and asked Board members to consider writing articles for the *Journal*.

**Agenda Item 16. Report of the Immediate Past President – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier waived her report.

**Agenda Item 17. Report of the President-Elect – Edward J. Walters, Jr.**

Mr. Walters waived his report.

**Agenda Item 18. Report of the President – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley waived his report.

**Agenda Item 19. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen waived her report.

**Agenda Item 20. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky**

Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report.

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**Agenda Item 21. Departmental Reports – Monte Mollere**  
Mr. Mollere referred members to his written report.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025**

President Talley reconvened the Board at 9:55 a.m., Saturday, January 18, 2025, immediately following the adjournment of the House of Delegates meeting. The following Board members participated:

President, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
President-Elect, Edward J. Walters, Jr.  
Secretary, Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Treasurer, C.A. “Hap” Martin III  
Immediate Past President, Shayna L. Sonnier  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Kristen D. Amond  
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.  
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From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
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From the Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Shannon Seiler Dartez  
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Also present were:

President-Elect Designee, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.  
Secretary-Elect, Bradley J. Tate  
Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

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Absent were:

Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier  
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson  
Fifth Board District Representative, Carrie LeBlanc Jones  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Aaron R. Wilson

Upon motion by Mr. Hancock and second by Ms. Dartez, the Board voted unanimously to ratify all action of the House of Delegates.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

*Valerie T. Schexnayder*

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

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
APRIL 6, 2025  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**