



Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

November 11, 2022

Lake Charles, LA

*** MINUTES ***

President Stephen I. Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 11, 2022, at the Golden Nugget Lake Charles. 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, Stephen I. Dwyer
President-Elect, Shayna L. Sonnier
Treasurer, Larry J. Centola III
Secretary, C.A. "Hap" Martin III
Immediate Past President, H. Minor Pipes III (by phone)
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Danielle L. Borel
Second Board District Representative, Erin O. Braud
Third Board District Representative, Dwazendra J. Smith
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson
Fifth Board District Representative, Adrian G. Nadeau (by phone)
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, Adrejia L.A. Boutté (by phone)
At-Large Member, Blake R. David
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs
From the Faculty of LSU Law Center, John M. Church
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, D. Skylar Rosenbloom (by phone)
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby (by phone)
President-Elect Designee, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.
Secretary-Elect, Valerie Schexnayder

Also present were:

From the Leadership LSBA 2022/2023 Class:
Jasmine C. Cooper (by phone)
Monette M. Davis (by phone)

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Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky (by phone)
Access to Justice Director, Monte T. Mollere
Communications Director, Kelly W. Ponder
Director of Member Outreach and Diversity, Tricia R. Pierre (by phone)
Executive Assistant, Jennifer France

Absent were:

First Board District Representative, Scott L. Sternberg
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.
From the Tulane Law School, Ronald J. Scalise, Jr.
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, Lila Tritico Hogan

Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar

- a. **Minutes of August 27, 2022 and September 20, 2022 Meetings** – Consideration of approval of minutes of August 27, 2022 and September 20, 2022 meetings.
- b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.

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

Agenda Item 3. 2023 Annual Meeting/Summer School Fee Schedule – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen presented the proposed the fee schedule for the 2023 meeting, noting that there was no increase over the 2022 rates. Upon motion by Mr. Joseph and second by Mr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the schedule.

Agenda Item 4. LSBA Appointment to Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Administrative Committee – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider the reappointment of Valerie Briggs Bargas of Baton Rouge to the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Administrative Committee for term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023. She is completing her second one-year term and is eligible for reappointment. Upon motion by Ms. Sonnier and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously approved recommending Ms. Bargas' reappointment to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Agenda Item 5. MCLE Committee Appointments – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider the following appointments:

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- Reappointment of Patrick A. Talley, Jr. for a second three-year term which will begin January 1, 2023 and end December 31, 2025; and
- Reappointment W. Michael Street for a second three-year term which will begin January 1, 2023 and end December 31, 2025.

Upon motion by Mr. Martin and second by Mr. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to make the recommendations, with Mr. Street abstaining.

Agenda Item 6. JLAP Lease Extension – H. Minor Pipes III

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider an extension of the JLAP lease for thirty-six (36) months at a rate of \$2,666.67 per month. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Smith, the Board unanimously approved the extension.

Agenda Item 7. Consideration of Employee Retirement Contribution – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider the annual employee retirement contribution equal to 10 percent of gross wages, for LSBA and JLAP employees meeting eligibility requirements (JLAP employees' contributions are funded through JLAP budget). Funds for these contributions were approved in the organizations' respective 2022/2023 budgets. Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Ms. Smith, the Board unanimously approved the contribution.

Agenda Item 8. Lawyer Advertising – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer reported to the Board that the staff and Rules of Professional Conduct Committee had been working to address the Board's concerns expressed at the September 20, 2022 meeting. He advised:

- Staff had been reorganized to combine Lawyer Advertising and Ethics Advisory staffs and that opinions were being assigned on an alternating basis to the two lawyers (Richard Lemmler and Eric Barefield);
- Staff had been expanded to add another administrative person to assist with processing opinions;
- RPC Committee on October 3, 2022 adopted Internal Operating Procedures which incorporated an appeals process; and
- Handbook on Lawyer Advertising and Solicitation updated to reflect all changes and has been uploaded to LSBA.org.

Mr. Dwyer advised that the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee was recommending a fee schedule which:

- Retained the \$175 filing fee and \$275 late filing fee;

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- Offered reduced filing fee to \$100 for timely filings by lawyers admitted to the Bar for less than three years and who are not affiliated with a firm comprised of five or more attorneys; and
- Offered reduced filing fee of \$75 re-filings of advertisements or written communication previously evaluated to be compliant with a minor correction or change (such as, for example, a change in a date, the name of the lawyer responsible for the filing, correction of a misspelling, or similar minor alteration) that is not material to the content of the filing or to the application of Rule 7.7 standards to the filing.

After some discussion and upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Pipes, the Board approved the following with Mr. Elliott voting against:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approve the fee schedule as presented, except that there be no fee for non-substantive re-filings.

Agenda Item 9. Committee on Bar Admissions – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer discussed with the Board of Governors a preliminary request from Chief Justice Weimer that both the LSBA and LADB consider a \$10 per member per year contribution to fund the Committee on Bar Admissions budget shortfall. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that it would need significant more information, including financials for COBA and LADB.

Agenda Item 10. Budget Committee Recommendations – Larry J. Centola

Mr. Centola reviewed a number of budget amendments being recommended by the Budget Committee from its November 10, 2022 meeting, explaining each of the proposed changes. After a brief discussion and upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the amendments as recommended.

Agenda Item 11. Election Report – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer referred the Board to the qualifying report for the 2022-2023 elections and congratulated Mr. Talley and Ms. Schexnayder on their elections as President-Elect Designee and Secretary Elect, respectively.

Agenda Item 12. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier updated the Board on JLAP operations noting the program is moving in the right direction and Dr. Angela White-Bazile has been involved in many speaking engagements. Mr. Pipes added the relationship between CADA and JLAP is improving.

Agenda Item 13. Single Billing 2022/2023 – Loretta Larsen

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Ms. Larsen referred members to the report on billing/payment of dues and assessment. She noted 381 members were certified ineligible on September 16.

Agenda Item 14. Strategic Plan Update – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer referred members to the report which illustrated plan progress to date.

Agenda Item 15. Report of the President – Stephen I. Dwyer

- a. **Mandatory Mentoring (Transition Into Practice Program)** – Mr. Dwyer reported on his communication with Chief Justice Weimer to recommend mandatory mentoring. There was some discussion on this issue, with several Board members expressing concern over additional burdens on new lawyers and several noting the importance of mentoring. Ms. Larsen advised that the concept of mandatory mentoring had previously been approved by both the House of Delegates and Board of Governors. Mr. Dwyer noted that he would consider recommending syllabus changes to address some Board concerns and would continue to keep the Board apprised on this issue.
- b. **ABA Midyear Meeting** – Mr. Dwyer reported that the ABA Midyear Meeting would be in New Orleans from February 1 to February 6, with a reception at the Louisiana Supreme Court on Friday, February 3.
- c. **House Resolution 30 to Create Judicial Structure Task Force**– Mr. Dwyer reported on a resolution from Louisiana House Representative Zeringue proposing a Judicial Structure Task Force. He added that the resolution call for input from the LSBA as a stakeholder. After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the LSBA should express its support for both the process and a properly funded judiciary.
- d. **CLE Opportunities** – Mr. Dwyer announced the following upcoming programs:
 - **New York, New York Multi-Topic CLE**
Saturday, November 19 – Tuesday, November 22
Hotel InterContinental Times Square
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)
 - **A Grand CLE**
Friday, December 9 – Sunday, December 11
Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection
Point Clear, Alabama
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)
 - **Dazzling Disney! A Multi-Topic CLE Seminar**
Monday, February 20 – Wednesday, February 22, 2023 (Mardi Gras)
Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)

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- **Colors of Provence CLE Cruise**
Thursday, March 23 – Thursday, March 30, 2023
Avignon to Lyon aboard the AmaKristina
[LSBARhoneRiverCruise2023.pdf](#)
- e. **BOG Meeting** – Mr. Dwyer reported that the Board of Governors’ next meeting will be held on the afternoon of Friday, January 20, in conjunction with the January 19-21, 2023 Midyear Meeting at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. The House will meet on the morning of Saturday, January 21, and the Board will reconvene immediately thereafter to consider ratification of the action of the House.

Agenda Item 16. Report of the President-Elect – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier announced the dates of the Board of Governors’ Orientation would be May 4-7 and the Annual Meeting/Summer School would be June 4-11 in Sandestin.

Agenda Item 17. Report of the Treasurer – Larry J. Centola

Mr. Centola noted that the LSBA had received a clean audit for FY 2020-2021 and referred members to the audit report as prepared by Bourgeois Bennett.

Agenda Item 18. Report of the Secretary – C.A. “Hap” Martin III

Mr. Martin noted that he was very proud the work the Editorial Board and staff was doing on the *Louisiana Bar Journal* and encouraged Board members to read it.

Agenda Item 19. Report of the Immediate Past President – H. Minor Pipes III

Mr. Pipes waived his report.

Agenda Item 20. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Danielle L. Borel

Ms. Borel reported on the Southeastern States Conference in which Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant was a member of the keynote speakers’ panel. She encouraged members to nominate young lawyers in their area for the Top 40 Young Lawyers Award. She also noted they are working with the sections for Level Up Learning, a free, hands-on experience. She reported the Wills for Heroes program wrote 84 wills from June to October. She said that the YLD Professional Development Seminar will again be virtual in conjunction with the Midyear Meeting, adding that the goal is to assist attorneys in completing their CLE requirements by offering law practice management, ethics, and professionalism. The Young Lawyers will be submitting two resolutions at the House of Delegates Midyear Meeting proposing to revise their bylaws and ask that judges allow young lawyers to participate in oral argument during court proceedings. She encouraged support of these resolutions.

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Agenda Item 21. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen waived her report.

Agenda Item 22. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

Ms. Grodsky waived her report.

Agenda Item 23. Staff Reports

a. Access to Justice

Mr. Mollere referred members to his report noting the Louisiana's First Disaster Law Collaboration Summit held November 3-4 was a success with several speakers including Governor John Bel Edwards.

b. Membership Outreach & Diversity

Ms. Pierre referred members to her report.

Agenda Item 24. Other Matters

Mr. Johnson requested that lawyer advertising be kept on the agenda for future Board meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



C.A. (Hap) Martin III
Secretary

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JANUARY 20, 2023
BATON ROUGE, LA**