



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

# **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**January 22 & 23, 2021**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021**

President Alainna R. Mire called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2021, 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, were present:

President, Alainna R. Mire  
President-Elect, H. Minor Pipes III (by Zoom)  
Secretary, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Treasurer, John E. "Eddie" McAuliffe, Jr.  
Immediate Past President, Robert A. Kutcher  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Carrie L. Jones  
First Board District Representative, Lawrence J. Centola  
First Board District Representative, Scott L. Sternberg (by Zoom)  
Second Board District Representative, Erin O. Braud  
Third Board District Representative, Dwazendra J. Smith  
Fourth Board District Representative, Todd S. Clemons  
Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais (by Zoom)  
Sixth Board District Representative, Edward L. Tarpley, Jr. (by Zoom)  
Seventh Board District Representative, Paul L. Hurd  
Eighth Board District Representative, Lauren B. McKnight  
At-Large Member, Lynn Luker (by Zoom)  
At-Large Member, Adrejia Boutté Swafford  
From the Faculty of Southern University Law Center, Donald W. North  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Sandra K. Cosby (by Zoom)  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, D. Skylar Rosenbloom (by Zoom)

Also present were:

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President-Elect Designee, Stephen I. Dwyer  
Secretary-Elect, C.A. “Hap” Martin III  
From the Leadership LSBA 2020/2021 Class:  
    ReAzalia Z. Allen  
    Kayla D. Dupler (by Zoom)  
    Harry Landry III  
    Nahshon J. Route (by Zoom)  
Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky  
Access to Justice Director, Monte T. Mollere (by Zoom)  
Communications Director, Kelly Wells Ponder (by Zoom)  
Information Technology Director, Ashley Cambre  
Director of Member Outreach and Diversity, Tricia R. Pierre (by Zoom)  
Executive Assistant, Jennifer France

Absent were:

Fifth Board District Representative, Adrian G. Nadeau  
At-Large Member, Tina L. Suggs  
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
From the Louisiana State Law Institute, Zelda W. Tucker  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Ann S. Siddall

**Agenda Item 2.       Consent Calendar**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – Consideration of approval of minutes of October 23, 2020 and November 18, 2020 meetings.
- b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 cooperative endeavor agreement.

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

**Agenda Item 3.       Amendments to FY 2020/2021 Budget – John E. McAuliffe, Jr.**

Mr. McAuliffe reviewed the proposed amendments to the FY 2020/2021 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. He noted that the amendments resulted in a \$63,500 positive impact to the budget. Upon motion by Mr. Kutcher and second by Mr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the amendments as recommended by the Budget Committee.

**Agenda Item 4.       Approval of At-Large Appointment – H. Minor Pipes III**

Mr. Pipes 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 2021 Annual Meeting and ends at the close of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Kutcher and

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second by Mr. McAuliffe, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Pipes's request.

**Agenda Item 5. Member Benefits – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky**

Ms. Grodsky asked that the Board consider two technology-related member benefits as recommended by Practice Management Counsel Shawn L. Holahan:

- a. LAWCLERK – an online marketplace where attorneys can hire freelance lawyers on a per project basis or become freelance lawyers for a project. LAWCLERK's target group are small office practitioners who need, or can provide, assistance on an "as needed" basis. Their focus is assisting smaller firms grow their practices in a flexible way.
- b. LEXOLOGY – a daily, legal newsletter that would be co-branded with the LSBA and which LEXOLOGY proposes to send to members on an opt-in basis. Members would complete an online form indicating which legal areas that they would want to see in the newsletter, and LEXOLOGY would then customize that newsletter for the member.

Ms. Grodsky advised that the LAWCLERK proposal was being withdrawn pending further study. She briefly reviewed the LEXOLOGY proposal and noted that Practice Management Counsel Shawn Holahan was recommending approval. Upon motion by Mr. McAuliffe and second by Mr. Kutcher, the Board unanimously approved the LEXOLOGY member benefit.

**Agenda Item 6. Trailblazer Award Name Change – Tricia R. Pierre**

Ms. Pierre asked that the Board consider the request from Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession to reinstate the original name of the Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award. Upon motion by Mr. Hurd and second by Mr. Talley, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

**Agenda Item 7. Insurance Committee Recommendation – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen asked that the Board consider the recommendation from Insurance Committee for rate increase on Annual Renewable Term Life plan. Upon motion by Mr. Kutcher and second by Mr. North, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

**Agenda Item 8. Review of House of Delegates Agenda – Alainna R. Mire**

Ms. Mire reviewed the House agenda and resolutions and noted that this would be the first time the House of Delegates would meet virtually. She reminded members that the Board would reconvene at the adjournment of the House meeting to consider ratification of the action of the House.

**Agenda Item 9. Election Update – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen referred to the written report, congratulated Stephen Dwyer and Hap Martin on their win, and noted that there is one runoff election for the 1<sup>st</sup> District Young Lawyers Division seat.

**Agenda Item 10. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – H. Minor Pipes III**

- a. Executive Director search; and

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**b. Mandatory reporting to LSBA**

Mr. Pipes reported that interviews had been conducted and that the search committee would need to recommend to the JLAP Board whether to hire someone who had been interviewed or interview other candidates. He noted that they had not stopped accepting applicants. He referred members to JLAP's quarterly report noting that the program was working within its budget.

**Agenda Item 11. Strategic Plan Update – Alainna R. Mire**

Ms. Mire referred members to the written report noting that the LSBA staff is continuing to accomplish goals set forth in the Strategic Plan.

**Reports**

**Agenda Item 12. Report of the President – Alainna R. Mire**

- a. Investiture of Chief Justice John L. Weimer** – Ms. Mire reported she participated in Chief Justice Weimer's investiture on January 7 and is looking forward to working with him and the entire Court on matters of mutual interest and concern. She added that while the LSBA had planned to celebrate retired Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson's tenure and myriad contributions, it was impossible to do so due to COVID concerns. She noted that she hoped to plan an appropriate celebration when circumstances permitted.
- b. Mardi Gras CLE at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa** – Ms. Mire reported there were 84 registrants and that space was still available for the February 15-17 seminar.
- c. BOG Meeting** – Ms. Mire asked the Board to mark their calendar for the Spring meeting to be held Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17 at the Roosevelt New Orleans. Information will be sent to Board members in February.
- d. Other Matters** – Ms. Mire added that due to COVID, the LSBA had to cancel the reception honoring 50, 60, and 70-year members historically held in connection with the Midyear Meeting. She added that she hopes to hold an event in the Spring if circumstances permit.

**Agenda Item 13. Report of the President-Elect – H. Minor Pipes III**

- a. 2021/2022 Board of Governors/YLD Council Orientation** – Mr. Pipes announced the Orientation dates to be April 29 through May 1 and asked continuing Board members to mark their calendars.
- b. 2021 Annual Meeting and Joint LSBA/LJC Summer School** – Mr. Pipes announced the theme of the Annual Meeting would be "A New Frontier – Ideas Abound." He advised that the meeting would be held in person if at all possible and asked Board members to plan to attend the June 6 – 11 event at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort.

**Agenda Item 14. Report of the Treasurer – John E. McAuliffe, Jr.**

Mr. McAuliffe waived his report.

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**Agenda Item 15. Report of the Secretary – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.**

Mr. Talley reported that the next issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* will feature an interview with Chief Justice John L. Weimer.

**Agenda Item 16. Report of the Immediate Past President – Robert A. Kutcher**

Mr. Kutcher waived his report.

**Agenda Item 17. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Carrie LeBlanc Jones**

Ms. Jones reported on the virtual Young Lawyers Conference held earlier in the day with 205 registrants. She added this was the most geographically diverse group every to participate in a YLD seminar. She noted the YLD decided to convert to a virtual CLE due to COVID-19 and this allowed them to list the cap on registrants.

**Agenda Item 18. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen asked the Board to contact Ashley Cambre, Jen France or herself with any questions about the virtual House of Delegates Meeting to be held the following morning. She noted the LSBA Staff held a test meeting the previous Friday for House members. She added that members will be able to log into the House meeting starting at 8 a.m., an hour ahead of the meeting time, to ensure all members are properly credentialed prior to the 9 a.m. start time.

**Agenda Item 19. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky**

Ms. Grodsky reported that all spring CLE, other than the Disney program, will be held virtually.

**Agenda Item 20. Staff Reports**

Ms. Mire referred members to Mr. Mollere's comprehensive written report on the ATJ Program.

**Agenda Item 21. Other Matters**

Ms. Mire extended her gratitude to the LSBA Staff for the preparation done for the Virtual House of Delegates Meeting.

At 3:26 p.m., Mr. Kutcher moved that the Board go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Mr. McAuliffe. The Executive Session began at 3:27 a.m. and ended at 3:29 p.m.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021**

President Mire reconvened the Board at 11:30 am., Saturday, January 23, 2021, immediately

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following the adjournment of the House of Delegates meeting. The following Board members participated:

President, Alainna R. Mire  
President-Elect, H. Minor Pipes III (via Zoom)  
Secretary, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Treasurer, John E. “Eddie” McAuliffe, Jr.  
Immediate Past President, Robert A. Kutcher  
Young Lawyers Division Chair, Carrie LeBlanc Jones (by Zoom)  
First Board District Representative, Lawrence J. Centola (by Zoom)  
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Also present were:

President-Elect Designee, Stephen I. Dwyer  
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Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE  
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky  
Information Technology Director, Ashley Cambre  
Executive Assistant, Jennifer France

Absent were:

Fifth Board District Representative, Adrian G. Nadeau  
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
From the Louisiana State Law Institute, Zelda W. Tucker

Upon motion by Mr. Kutcher and second by Mr. McAuliffe, the Board voted to ratify all action of the House of Delegates, with Mr. Hurd voting against.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Talley, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Secretary

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
APRIL 17, 2021  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**