



Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Saturday, August 24, 2024

New Orleans

*** MINUTES ***

President Patrick A. Talley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 24, 2024, in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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, 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 (by phone)
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Kristen D. Amond
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.
First Board District Representative, Graham H. Ryan
Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier
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, Senée D. Hall
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock (by phone)
At-Large Member, Tina L. Suggs
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace (by phone)
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 (by phone)

Also present were:

President-Elect Nominee, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.
Secretary Nominee, Bradley J. Tate

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Louisiana Bar Foundation President, Hon. John C. Davidson
From the Leadership LSBA 2024/2025 Class:

Nicole T. Bowyer
Katelyn B. Courville
Shelvia R.G. Davis
Sarah M. Day
Fernando B. Grider, Jr.
Casey C. Hollins
Kaylin E. Jolivette
Henry S. “Hank” Rauschenberger
Garret W. Wick

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
Information Technology Director, Ashley Cambre
Executive Assistant, Jen France

Absent were:

Second Board District Representative, Jeffrey G. Lagarde
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Aaron R. Wilson

Agenda Item 2. Introduction of Leadership LSBA 2024/2025 Class

Mr. Talley introduced the Leadership Class members to the Board.

Agenda Item 3. Consent Calendar

- a. **Minutes of June 5, 2024 and June 7, 2024 Meetings** – Consideration of approval of minutes of June 5, 2024 and June 7, 2024 meetings held during Annual Meeting.
- b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement; and
- c. **Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization** – Annual Report from Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization.

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

Agenda Item 4. Budget – C.A. “Hap” Martin III

Mr. Martin reviewed the preliminary June 2024 financial report for FY 2023/2024 noting that while the LSBA ended the year with a deficit, it was much less than projected.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of Louisiana Client Assistance Foundation Board of Directors – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

Ms. Grodsky asked the Board to consider the approval of the 2024/2025 LCAF Board, noting that the only change from the prior year was the new Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Anderson O. Dotson III. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Dartez, the Board unanimously approved the 2024/2025 LCAF Board of Directors as proposed.

Agenda Item 6. Approval of Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

At Mr. Talley’s request, Ms. Larsen asked the Board to consider the approval of the 2024/2025 LBLs Board: Chair, Susan J. Burkenstock; Vice Chair, Richard K. Leefe; Treasurer, Robert G. Levy; Members - Shawn D. Vance, Ann Marie LeBlanc, Angela Cox Williams, Paul Douglas Stewart, Jr., Joseph M. Placer, Jr. and Jimmy D. Long, Jr. Upon motion by Ms. Hall and second by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the LBLs Board roster.

Agenda Item 7. Budget Committee Election – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

Mr. Talley noted that the Board would need to elect a member to serve a two-year term as a voting member of the Budget Committee, which term would commence immediately and end at the 2026 Annual Meeting. Mr. North nominated Ms. Suggs, which nomination was seconded by Mr. Ryan. There being no further nominations, Ms. Suggs was elected by acclamation.

Agenda Item 8. Nominating Committee – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

Mr. Talley reported that the Nominating Committee at its August 22 meeting nominated Curtis R. Joseph, Jr. of Shreveport for 2025-2026 President-Elect (to succeed to the presidency in 2026-2027) and Bradley J. Tate of New Orleans for 2025-2027 Secretary.

Agenda Item 9. Single Billing 2024/2025 Recap – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen referred members to the written report and advised that the LSBA would continue to send email reminders to those members who received notices of delinquency. She added that any member who had not paid by close of business on September 9 would be certified ineligible to practice law.

Agenda Item 10. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – Edward J. Walters, Jr.

Mr. Walters advised that will continue to expand its initiatives to also focus on wellness and mental health. Mr. Walters also noted that he and a few other Board members attended Camp JLAP, spoke to its success, and encouraged others to attend if given the opportunity.

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Agenda Item 11. 2024 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers and Judges – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen reported that attendance was up from the past several years for the 2024 Annual Meeting/Summer School, advising that 498 judges and lawyers were in attendance. She noted that financials were similar to the prior year, with income being over expenses for the event.

Agenda Item 12. Strategic Planning – Graham H. Ryan

Mr. Ryan reminded Board members that the strategic planning meeting would be held September 13 and 14 in Baton Rouge. He reviewed the steps to date including the environmental scan which included both the member survey and stakeholder interviews. He added that he had been working with facilitator Jennifer Lewin and had divided the board and other participants into four groups which are the primary focus areas. He also reported that Ms. Lewin will circulate an agenda, group assignments, survey results, the former plan and its progress, and other background information prepared by staff to all participants in the coming week.

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

Ms. Amond reported that at its August 23 meeting, the Council nominated Rachal Cox Cassagne to 2025-2026 Secretary, which position will succeed to chair-elect and chair in subsequent years. She added that Christopher J. Sellers, Jr. was selected as 2024-2025 Secretary, to replace Quinn K. Brown who recently moved out of state. She also reported that Margaret L. Manning was appointed to serve as District 1 Representative for 2024-2026, the position vacated by Mr. Sellers when he became Secretary. Ms. Amond also reported that the YLD would conduct its own strategic planning meeting on September 12 and 13 in Baton Rouge. The next meeting of the YLD would be held in Lake Charles on October 10. She added that the YLD has several upcoming events including Barristers for Boards, the Young Lawyers Conference, and Wills for Heroes. She encouraged Board members to volunteer at their local Wills for Heroes events.

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

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

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

Ms. Schexnayder reported that the Editorial Board held a very productive meeting on August 23, including planning for the next issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* which would focus on the needs of those with disabilities.

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 reported that the Annual Meeting/Summer School Planning Committee has begun putting together a schedule full of exciting speakers for the June 2025 meeting and encouraged members to plan to attend.

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

- a. **Law School Professionalism Programs** – Mr. Talley report on the successful 1L programs held at Southern and LSU in early August.
- b. **Fall 2024 Meeting** – Mr. Talley announced that the next Board of Governors meeting will be held Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18, in New Orleans. He encouraged members to attend and added that information will be emailed by early September.
- c. **2025 Midyear Meeting** – Mr. Talley announced that the 2025 Midyear Meeting will be held Thursday, January 16 through Saturday, January 18 at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel and encouraged all to attend.
- d. **CLE Opportunities** – Mr. Talley announced the following upcoming programs and encouraged everyone to consider attending:
 - **CLE Cruise on the Danube**
Saturday, November 9 – Saturday, November 16
AmaLea (Budapest to Vilshofen)
[Registration Open for LSBA 2024 Danube River Cruise & CLE Program](#)
 - **New York, New York Multi-Topic CLE**
Saturday, November 23 – Tuesday, November 26
Hotel InterContinental Times Square
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)
 - **A Grand CLE**
Friday, December 13 – Sunday, December 15
Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection
Point Clear, Alabama
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)
 - **Dazzling at Disney**
Monday, March 3 – Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Walt Disney World's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- e. **Other Matters** – Mr. Talley announced that a task force would be created to look at the House of Delegates' role in the wake of *Boudreaux*, with a goal of submitting a resolution to the House of Delegates at its January 2025 meeting. Mr. Talley also reported on the AI Task Force chaired by Board member Adam Johnson with Staff Liaison Shawn Holahan, noting their efforts to determine how other bars are handling AI and how this may affect

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the Rules of Professional Conduct. In Mr. Johnson's absence, Ms. Larsen gave a brief report on the Task Force's work to date.

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

Ms. Larsen waived her report, as all items were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

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

Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report.

Agenda Item 21. Departmental Reports

Ms. Pierre, Director of Member Outreach and Diversity referred members to her written report, noting another successful Conclave earlier this month. Mr. Mollere, Access to Justice Director, noted that ATJ is working with the *Louisiana Bar Journal* for the issue focused on those with disabilities. Ms. Ponder, Director of Communications, reported that Communications Department is developing a new template for the LSBA e-newsletter.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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

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