Louisiana State Bar Association

Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

9 a.m. ■ Friday, June 6, 2025
Miramar Beach, Florida

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

President Edward J. Walters, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 2025, in Miramar Beach, Florida. 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, Edward J. Walters, Jr.
President-Elect, Curtis R. Joseph, Jr. (by phone)
Treasurer, C.A. "Hap" Martin III
Secretary, Bradley J. Tate
Immediate Past President, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Collin R. Melancon
First Board District Representative, Graham H. Ryan
First Board District Representative, Lindsey A. Cheek
Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier
Fourth Board District Representative, Todd S. Clemons
Sixth Board District Representative, Barry M. Barnett
Seventh Board District Representative, Amy J. Miller
Eighth Board District Representative, Senáe D. Hall
At-Large Member, Tina L. Suggs (by phone)
From the Faculty of LSU Law Center, John M. Church
From the Louisiana State Law Institute, G. Trippe Hawthorne
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Shannon Seiler Dartez
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Larry E. Pichon

Also present were:

Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE
Associate Executive Director, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky
Access to Justice Training and Project Counsel, Amy Duncan
Communications Director, Kelly W. Ponder
Information Technology Director, Ashley Cambre
Director of Member Outreach and Diversity, Tricia R. Pierre

Governance Coordinator, Jen France

Absent were:

Second Board District Representative, Jeffrey G. Lagarde
Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais
Fifth Board District Representative, Christopher K. Jones
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock
At-Large Member, Daniel A. Cavell
From the Faculty of Tulane University Law School, Ronald J. Scalise
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Aaron R. Wilson

Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar

a. **Bank Resolutions**
Resolutions have been prepared covering all accounts of the Association. These require that all checks be signed by Treasurer C.A. "Hap" Martin III or Assistant Treasurer Loretta Larsen and countersigned by one of the following persons: Edward J. Walters, Jr., Patrick A. Talley, Jr., Bradley J. Tate, Graham H. Ryan, Lindsey A. Cheek, Tina L. Suggs and Ronald J. Scalise, Jr.

b. **Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education**
Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.

Upon motion by Ms. Hall and second by Ms. Dartez, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved without discussion or debate.

Agenda Item 3. House of Delegates – Edward J. Walters, Jr.

Mr. Walters reviewed the action taken by the House of Delegates at its Thursday, June 5, 2025 meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Martin and second by Ms. Dartez, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the action of the House.

Agenda Item 4. Presidential Authority – Edward J. Walters, Jr.

Under the Charter, the President, with the consent of the Board of Governors, may make committee appointments and create committees with acquiescence of Executive Committee and Board of Governors. The Board is requested to grant Mr. Talley the authority to make such appointments as required during his term of office and also to create such special committees and/or task forces he deems necessary and proper with acquiescence of Executive Committee and Board of Governors. Upon motion by Mr. Church and second by Ms. Miller, the Board voted unanimously to grant Mr. Walters presidential authority.

Agenda Item 5. Board of Governors Statements Confirming LSBA Policies – Edward J. Walters, Jr.

After review by Mr. Walters and upon motion by Mr. Clemons and second by Mr. Barnett, the Board unanimously approved the Antitrust Avoidance, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest policies, which were circulated for Board members' signatures.

Agenda Item 6. 2025/2026 Budget – C.A. "Hap" Martin III
Mr. Martin reviewed the proposed budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, highlighting those items which he deemed most important, along with those items which reflected any significant changes. He noted that this budget had been approved by the Budget Committee and preliminarily approved by the 2024/2025 Board at their April 2025 meetings. After a brief discussion and upon motion by Ms. Miller and second by Mr. Church, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget.

Agenda Item 7. JLAP Budget - Bradley J. Tate
Mr. Tate reviewed the proposed JLAP budget for FY 2025/2026. After a brief discussion and upon motion by Mr. Martin and second by Ms. Dartez, the Board unanimously approved the JLAP budget as presented.

Agenda Item 8. Election Procedures 2025/2026 – Loretta Larsen
Ms. Larsen reviewed the election procedures for 2025/2026, noting that the following positions would be elected in the coming year:

- Board of Governors representatives from the First, Second, Third and Fifth Districts;
- House of Delegates representatives from the First through Nineteenth Judicial Districts;
- All 15 members of the Nominating Committee; and
- Two delegates to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, plus one young lawyer delegate.

She noted that the elections would again be conducted online only, as allowed by the governing documents and in accordance with procedures adopted a number of years ago. Upon motion by Mr. Hawthorne and second by Mr. Church, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Election Procedures.

Agenda Item 9. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Collin R. Melancon
Mr. Melancon thanked the Board for its continued support of the YLD and noted that the entities can assist each other in achieving the LSBA's mission and goals. He reported on the success of the Wills for Heroes program and the recent free CLE in which 90 young lawyers participated. He announced that his goal as chair is to get the word out to the public on what the YLD does, and that they will be utilizing social media posts and podcasts to achieve this.

Agenda Item 10. Report of the Treasurer – C.A. "Hap" Martin III
Mr. Martin waived his report, as all items were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Agenda Item 11. Report of the Secretary – Bradley J. Tate

Mr. Tate reported that the first issue of the *Bar Journal* was recently mailed and encouraged Board members to submit articles. He also advised he would be appointing the Editorial Board in the immediate future.

Agenda Item 12. Report of the Immediate Past President – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.
Mr. Talley waived his report.

Agenda Item 13. Report of the President-Elect – Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.
Mr. Joseph expressed his excitement to serve.

Agenda Item 14. Report of the President – Edward J. Walters, Jr.

a. **Committee Appointments**
   Mr. Walters reported that he would be meeting with staff later in June to make committee appointments.
b. **Committee on Bar Admissions**
   Mr. Walters reported on the status of the contributions to the committee.
c. **2025/2026 Board of Governors Meeting Calendar**
   Mr. Walters referred members to the meeting schedule and asked Board members to mark their calendars for all meetings.
d. **2026 Midyear Meeting – Thursday, January 22 through Saturday, January 24 at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel**
   Mr. Walters announced the dates and location of the Midyear Meeting and asked Board members to mark their calendars and plan to attend.

Agenda Item 15. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen
Ms. Larsen noted that the next meeting will be held in August and will include the Nominating Committee meeting, 2025/26 LSBA Leadership Class Reception and Orientation, Executive, Budget and Board of Governors meetings.

Agenda Item 16. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky
Ms. Grodsky announced that the feedback received thus far from the 2025 Summer School has been positive.

Adjourn
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bradley J. Tate
Secretary

APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
AUGUST 23, 2025
NEW ORLEANS, LA