



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**11 a.m. ■ Friday, June 9, 2023**

**Miramar Beach, Florida**

### **\* MINUTES \***

President Shayna L. Sonnier called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023, 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, Shayna L. Sonnier  
President-Elect, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.  
Treasurer, Larry J. Centola III (by phone)  
Secretary, Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Immediate Past President, Stephen I. Dwyer  
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Senae D. Hall  
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.  
First Board District Representative, Graham H. Ryan  
Second Board District Representative, Jeffrey G. Lagarde  
Third Board District Representative, Melanie W. Chatagnier  
Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson  
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. (by phone)  
At-Large Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs  
At-Large Member, L. Bradley Hancock  
From the Faculty of Loyola University College of Law, Monica Hof Wallace  
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby

Also present were:

Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE

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

Absent were:

Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais  
At-Large Member, Blake R. David  
From the Faculty of Southern University Law Center, Donald W. North  
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Shannon Seiler Dartez

**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 Lawrence J. Centola or Assistant Treasurer Loretta Larsen and countersigned by one of the following persons: Shayna L. Sonnier, Patrick A. Talley, Jr., Stephen I. Dwyer, Valerie T. Schexnayder, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr., Graham H. Ryan, and Monica Hof Wallace.

**b. Presidential Authority**

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 Ms. Sonnier the authority to make such appointments as required during her term of office and also to create such special committees and/or task forces she deems necessary and proper with acquiescence of Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

**c. Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education**

Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.

Upon motion by Mr. Lagarde and second by Mr. Ryan, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved without discussion or debate.

**Agenda Item 3. Implementation of the Strategic Plan – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier reviewed the Strategic Plan adopted by 2018/2019 Board of Governors, noting the Board will need to update the plan. After a brief discussion there was consensus that the next plan should be developed during the 2024/2025 bar year, with preliminary work to be done in the current fiscal year.

**Agenda Item 4. House of Delegates – Shayna L. Sonnier**

Ms. Sonnier reviewed the action taken by the House of Delegates at its Thursday, June 8, 2023,

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meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Mr. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the action of the House.

**Agenda Item 5. Board of Governors Statements Confirming LSBA Policies – Shayna L. Sonnier**

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

**Agenda Item 6. Budget – Larry J. Centola**

**a. JLAP Budget Request**

Mr. Centola reviewed the proposed JLAP budget for FY 2023/2024 noting the reinstitution of Camp JLAP, which was temporarily suspended due to COVID. Upon motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Street, the Board unanimously approved the JLAP budget as presented.

**b. 2023/2024 Budget**

Mr. Centola 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 from FY 2023/2024. He noted that a \$220,000 line item had been added based on the May 17, 2023 Supreme Court resolution (attached as an addendum to these minutes) requiring the LSBA and LADB to each remit \$10 per fee-paying member to help fund Committee on Bar Admissions operations. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Mr. Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget, with the caveat that COBA funding should be made in quarterly installments.

**Agenda Item 7. Election Procedures 2023/2024 – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen reviewed the election procedures for 2023/2024, noting that the following positions would be elected in the coming year:

- Board of Governors representatives from the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth 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. After a brief discussion, the Board requested that the schedule be revised to compress the time between the availability of ballots and the voting deadline, and that the vote on election procedures be deferred until the August 2023 meeting.

**Agenda Item 8. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Senae D. Hall**

Ms. Hall announced that the YLD's next hybrid Level Up Learning program was scheduled for June 21, 2023, in conjunction with the LSBA's Corporate and Business Law Section. She said that the

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2023/2024 Council held its first meeting earlier today, and that plans were underway for the coming year.

**Agenda Item 9. Report of the Treasurer – Larry J. Centola III**

Mr. Centola waived his report, as all items were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 10. Report of the Secretary – Valerie T. Schexnayder**

Ms. Schexnayder reported that the first issue of the *Bar Journal* was recently mailed and expressed her gratitude toward the LSBA Staff that assists with the *Bar Journal*. She also encouraged Board members and Young Lawyers to submit articles. She noted that the Editorial Board is seeking a young lawyer to serve on the Board.

**Agenda Item 11. Report of the Immediate Past President – Stephen I. Dwyer**

Mr. Dwyer waived his report.

**Agenda Item 12. Report of the President-Elect – Patrick A. Talley,**

**a. 2024 Annual Meeting/Joint Summer School with Louisiana Judicial College at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort – Sunday, June 2 through Friday, June 7**

Mr. Tally announced the dates of the 2024 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers and Judges and encouraged all to plan to attend.

**b. CLE Cruise Aboard AmaLea – Saturday, November 9 – Saturday, November 16, 2024**

Mr. Tally announced the dates of the CLE cruise planned for 2024, and encouraged Board members to consider participating.

**c. 2024/2025 Board of Governors/YLD Council Orientation – Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 5**

Mr. Tally announced the dates of the orientation and asked that all continuing Board members mark their calendar and plan to attend.

**d. Other Matters**

Mr. Tally noted the low attendance at the June 8 House of Delegates meeting and would like to create a task force to rejuvenate the group. He said he would discuss this matter further with Ms. Sonnier.

**Agenda Item 13. Report of the President – Shayna L. Sonnier**

**a. Leadership LSBA 2023/2024 – Deadline Friday, June 23**

Ms. Sonnier reported that applications were being accepted until June 23 and encouraged Board members to nominate young lawyers for the class.

**b. Committee Appointments**

Ms. Sonnier reported that she would be meeting with staff prior to July 1 to make committee appointments.

**c. 2023/2024 Board of Governors Meeting Calendar**

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Ms. Sonnier referred members to the meeting schedule and asked Board members to mark their calendar for all meetings.

**d. 2024 Midyear Meeting – Thursday, January 18 through Saturday, January 20 at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel**

Ms. Sonnier announced the dates and location of the Midyear Meeting and asked Board members to mark their calendar and plan to attend.

**e. Oral argument in Boudreaux set for 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

Ms. Sonnier announced the time and date of the oral argument in the *Boudreaux* case.

**Agenda Item 14. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen**

Ms. Larsen waived her report.

**Agenda Item 15. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky**

Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Valerie T. Schexnayder  
Secretary

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
AUGUST 26, 2023  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**