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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Thursday, April 20, 2023

New Orleans, LA

*** MINUTES ***

President Stephen I. Dwyer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2023, at The Higgins Hotel New Orleans. 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
Chair, Young Lawyers Division, Danielle L. Borel (by phone)
First Board District Representative, Scott L. Sternberg
First Board District Representative, J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.
Second Board District Representative, Erin O. Braud
Third Board District Representative, Dwazendra J. Smith
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, Jeffrey A. Riggs
From the Faculty of LSU Law Center, John M. Church
From the Tulane Law School, Ronald J. Scalise, Jr.
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, Lila Tritico Hogan (by phone)
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, D. Skylar Rosenbloom (by phone)
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby (by phone)

Also present were:

Secretary-Elect, Valerie Schexnayder (by phone)

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Executive Director, Loretta Larsen, CAE
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:

Fourth Board District Representative, Adam P. Johnson
At-Large Member, Blake R. David
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly

Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes of January 20 and 21, 2023 Meetings** – Consideration of approval of minutes of January 20 and 21, 2023 meetings.
- b. Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education** – Periodic report from the LCLCE, as required by the April 2010 agreement.
Upon motion by Mr. Scalise and second by Mr. Church, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar without discussion or debate.

Agenda Item 3. Budget – Larry J. Centola

- a. Amendments to FY 2022/2023 Budget** – Consideration of amendments as recommended by Budget Committee.
Mr. Centola reviewed the amendments to the FY 2022/2023 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Upon motion by Mr. Elliott and second by Mr. Church, the Board unanimously approved the amendments as recommended by the Budget Committee.
- b. Consideration of FY 2023/2024 Budget** – Consideration of approval of budget for FY 2023/2024.
Mr. Centola reviewed the proposed FY 2023/2024 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Upon motion by Mr. Elliott and second by Mr. Street, the Board unanimously approved the proposed budget as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Agenda Item 4. Ratification of At-Large Appointment – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier asked for ratification of L. Bradley Hancock of Houston, Texas as her at-large appointment to the Board of Governors for a three-year term beginning at the close of the 2023 Annual Meeting and ending at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Board at its January 20 meeting gave Ms. Sonnier the authority to make the appointment. Upon motion by Mr. Joseph and second by Ms. Smith, the Board ratified Mr. Hancock's appointment.

Agenda Item 5. Ratification of Pro Bono Awards and Children's Law Awards Vote – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked for ratification of the March 2023 email vote regarding recipients of awards. Upon motion by Mr. Scalise and second by Mr. Church, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the email vote.

Agenda Item 6. Ratification of Committee on Bar Admissions Appointment Recommendation Vote – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked for ratification of the March 2023 email vote regarding the emergency appointment of Edward F. Harold as the Director of Accommodations for the Committee on Bar Admissions. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Mr. Street, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the email vote.

Agenda Item 7. Catherine D. Kimball Award for the Administration of Justice – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider the nominees for the Catherine D. Kimball Award. After some discussion and upon motion by Mr. Sternberg and second by Ms. Braud, the Board voted unanimously to present the award to the Hon. June Berry Darensburg and the Hon. Marilyn C. Castle.

Agenda Item 8. Committee on Bar Admissions Recommendation – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer asked the Board to consider the recommendation to the Louisiana Supreme Court the appointment of Joseph Placer, Jr. as the Civil Code II Examiner for the Committee on Bar Admissions. Upon motion by Mr. Joseph and second by Ms. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the appointment of Mr. Placer.

Agenda Item 9. Appointment of JLAP Board of Directors – H. Minor Pipes III

Mr. Pipes advised that in accordance with JLAP Bylaws, the LSBA Board of Governors was charged with making appointments to the JLAP Board of Directors. Mr. Pipes further advised that after one year on the JLAP Board, during which he served as President, other commitments made it impossible for him to continue to serve and that he would resign effective June 30, 2023.

After taking into account the recommendations of the JLAP Board and the LSBA Executive Committee, and upon motion by Mr. Martin and second by Mr. Scalise, the Board voted unanimously to make the following appointments:

- Remainder of H. Minor Pipes' term (7/1/23 – 6/30/25) as LSBA Leader Director and JLAP President for 2023-2024 – Robert A. Kutcher;
- Reappointment as LSBA Leader Director (7/1/23 – 6/30/26) and JLAP Secretary for 2023-2024 – Bradley J. Tate;

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- Appointment as Judge Director (7/1/23 – 6/30/26) to replace the Hon. Rachael D. Johnson, who is completing her second term and is not eligible for reappointment – Hon. Sandra Cabrina Jenkins; and
- Appointment, by virtue of his position as LSBA President-Elect, as JLAP Treasurer (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) – Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

Agenda Item 10. Committee on Diversity Award Recommendation – Tricia R. Pierre

Ms. Pierre advised the Board that the Committee on Diversity unanimously recommended Kim M. Boyle as the recipient of the Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award. Upon motion by Mr. Sternberg and second by Ms. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Committee on Diversity's recommendation.

Agenda Item 11. Appointment to LCAF Board of Directors – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

Ms. Grodsky asked the Board to consider the appointment of the Louisiana Client Assistance Foundation Board of Directors, including the appointment of Carl J. Servat III to replace Drew A. Ranier. Upon motion by Mr. Centola and second by Mr. Church, the Board unanimously approved the appointments.

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

- a. Report on JLAP Operations**
- b. Mandatory reporting to LSBA**

Ms. Sonnier reported JLAP is finalizing its budget and will present it to the Board of Governors for its consideration at the June 9, 2023 meeting. She also noted that JLAP's office manager had resigned and that Executive Director Angela White-Bazile was assessing the organization's needs prior to hiring a new employee. Ms. Sonnier referred Board members to JLAP's quarterly report.

Agenda Item 13. Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers and Judges – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer referred members to the registrations to date and encouraged everyone to register and attend. He reminded Board members that there would be no Monday night event because it had been historically poorly attended.

Agenda Item 14. Report of the President – Stephen I. Dwyer

- a. ATJ Conclave** – Mr. Dwyer reported on the March 3, 2023 Access to Justice Conclave at the Louisiana Supreme Court, noting its success and his desire for this to become an annual event.
- b. Honoring Members of Louisiana Supreme Court** – Mr. Dwyer announced plans to honor the Supreme Court Justices at the General Assembly during the 2023 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers.

- c. **BOG Meeting** – Mr. Dwyer announced that the Board of Governors’ final meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, in connection with the 2023 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers & Judges.
- d. **Louisiana Bar Foundation Annual Fellows Gala** – Mr. Dwyer reminded members about the April 21, 2023 LBF Gala at the WWII Museum.
- e. **Report on Seven Points Louisiana CLE Series** – Mr. Dwyer reported that the seminar series, featuring the Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court, had been well attended.
- f. **Report on March 2023 Rhone River CLE Cruise Aboard AmaKristina** – Mr. Dwyer reported that 38 members attended the CLE.
- g. **Update on Supreme Court Request Regarding Committee on Bar Admissions** – Mr. Dwyer advised that he had met with the Chief Justice and was awaiting further information and direction.
- h. **Transition Into Practice Program** – Mr. Dwyer reported that the Supreme Court had elected not to make the TIP Program mandatory at this time, but that the Court was considering additional ways to incentivize new attorneys to participate in the program.
- i. **Lawyer Advertising** – Mr. Dwyer noted that the program was running smoothly with the changes recommended by the Board.
- j. **Louisiana Reception During ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans** – Mr. Dwyer reported on the success of the reception held at the Supreme Court during the ABA Midyear Meeting.

Agenda Item 15. Report of the President-Elect – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier reminded continuing Board members that the 2023-2024 Board of Governors/YLD Council Orientation would be held May 4 through May 6.

Agenda Item 16. Report of the Treasurer – Larry J. Centola

Mr. Centola waived his report, noting all items had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Agenda Item 17. Report of the Secretary – C.A. “Hap” Martin III

Mr. Martin reported that his last issue as editor of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* could be found on the website and that copies would be mailed the following week.

Agenda Item 18. Report of the Immediate Past President – H. Minor Pipes III

Mr. Pipes waived his report.

Agenda Item 19. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Danielle L. Borel

Ms. Borel reported on three recent YLD successes. In March, the YLD hosted the State Mock Trial at the 24th JDC and the winning team was Jesuit High School. They will represent Louisiana at the national high school mock trial in May. The Wills for Heroes program is going well with more than 160 wills drafted year to date. The Young Lawyer Conference was a success, with the ABA

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YLD Chair in attendance. The YLD awards were presented, along with the inaugural YLD Top 40 Awards.

Agenda Item 20. Report of the Executive Director – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen advised returning Board members that the Orientation would include individual competition on LSBA knowledge, rather than team competition as had been done in the past.

Agenda Item 21. Report of the Associate Executive Director – Cheri Cotogno Grodsky

Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report noting several upcoming events.

Agenda Item 22. Staff Report – Monte Mollere

Mr. Mollere referred members to his written report and invited them to the Pro Bono and Children's Law Awards Ceremony scheduled for May 17 at the Supreme Court.

Executive Session

At 3:58 p.m., Mr. Sternberg moved that the Board go into the Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Mr. Pipes. The Executive Session began at 3:58 p.m. and ended at 4 p.m.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



C.A. (Hap) Martin III
Secretary

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JUNE 7, 2023
MIRAMAR BEACH, FL**