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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Saturday, August 26, 2023

New Orleans, LA

*** MINUTES ***

President Shayna L. Sonnier called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 26, 2023, 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, Shayna L. Sonnier
President-Elect, Patrick A. Talley, Jr.
Treasurer, Larry J. Centola III
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 (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, 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 Southern University Law Center, Donald W. North
From the Faculty of Louisiana State Law Institute, André Doguet
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Chair, Keenan K. Kelly (by phone)
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Sandra K. Cosby
House of Delegates Committee on Liaison Member, Shannon Seiler Dartez

Also present were:

President-Elect Nominee, Ed Walters, Jr.

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Treasurer Nominee, C.A. “Hap” Martin III
From the Leadership LSBA 2023/2024 Class:

Bailey E. Anderson
Brittany B. Chavis
Nicholas S. Bergeron
Catherine S. Carrier
Micah O. Clemons
Kristina F. Douglas
Brian J. Lindsey
Tiyanna D. Lords
Stephanie M. Poucher
Karina Shareen
Josef P. Ventulan
Co-Chair, Candace B. Ford

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

Absent were:

Fifth Board District Representative, Kelly M. Rabalais
At-Large Member, Blake R. David

Agenda Item 2. Introduction of Leadership LSBA 2023/2024 Class

At Ms. Sonnier’s request, the Leadership Class members introduced themselves to the Board.

Agenda Item 3. Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes of June 7, 2023 and June 9, 2023 Meetings** – Consideration of approval of minutes of June 7, 2023 and June 9, 2023 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 Mr. Talley and second by Ms. Schexnayder, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Calendar without discussion or debate.

Agenda Item 4. Budget – Larry J. Centola III

- a. 2022/2023 Budget** – Review of preliminary June 2023 financial report for FY 2022/2023; and
- b. 2023/2024 Budget** – Consideration of amendments to FY 2023/2024 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Mr. Centola reported on the 2022/2023 budget, noting that due to a number of factors including higher than anticipated CLE revenues, an increase in interest rates, and reduced expenses in many areas, the LSBA ended the year with a roughly \$600,000 contribution to reserves.

Mr. Centola reviewed the amendment to increase the budget by \$135,000 to cover waterproofing of the Bar Center, as recommended by the Budget Committee. He advised that this had been budgeted for the 22/23 fiscal year but not spent due to scheduling issues. Upon motion by Mr. Joseph and second by Mr. Riggs, the Board unanimously approved the amendment as recommended.

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 2023/2024 LCAF Board, noting that there were no changes from the prior year. Upon motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Wallace, the Board unanimously approved the 2023/2024 LCAF Board of Directors as proposed, with the roster attached as an addendum to these minutes.

Agenda Item 6. Ratification of Email Votes – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ratification of the following appointments to the 2023/2024 Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization approved by the Board of Governors via email on July 18, 2023: Chair, Richard K. Leefe; Vice Chair, Susan J. Burkenstock; Treasurer, Douglas C. Caldwell; Members - Robert E. Rowe, Shawn D. Vance, Robert G. Levy, Ann Marie LeBlanc, Angela Cox Williams and Paul; Douglas Stewart, Jr. Upon motion by Mr. Hancock and second by Ms. Wallace, the Board unanimously ratified the action previously taken by email.

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

Ms. Larsen referred members to the revised schedule of the election procedures for 2023/2024, noting that changes had been made in accordance with the Board's June 2023 directive. After a brief discussion and upon motion by Mr. Talley and second by Ms. Schexnayder, the Board unanimously approved the election procedures.

Agenda Item 8. Nominating Committee – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier reported that the Nominating Committee at its August 24 meeting nominated Edward J. Walters, Jr. of Baton Rouge for 2024-2025 President-Elect (to succeed to the presidency in 2025-2026) and C.A. "Hap" Martin III of Monroe for 2024-2026 Treasurer.

Agenda Item 9. Single Billing 2023/2024 Recap – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen referred members to the written report and advised that collections were on track with prior years.

Agenda Item 10. Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer advised that JLAP had reinstituted Camp JLAP, which had been on hiatus since the COVID pandemic. He noted that the program was well attended and well received, and plans were underway for the 2024 Camp JLAP. Ms. Sonnier added that Robert A. Kutcher was serving as President for 2023/2024 and was working with Executive Director Angela White-Bazile to advance the mission of JLAP.

Agenda Item 11. Transition Into Practice Update – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer reported that the Louisiana Supreme Court had amended the MCLE rules to allow successful completion of TIP by newly admitted attorneys to satisfy their first and second year MCLE requirements. He noted that the Court had committed to assist the LSBA with promotion of the program. Ms. Grodsky added that to enhance the TIP experience, the LSBA would be allowing free access to various workshops and that each participant would receive \$200 in TIP Bucks upon completion of the program. Finally, she noted that staff is currently developing a brochure to disseminate to Louisiana law schools to promote the program.

Agenda Item 12. 2023 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers and Judges – Loretta Larsen

Ms. Larsen reported on the attendance and finances of the 2023 Annual Meeting/Summer School, advising that attendance was similar to prior years.

Agenda Item 13. Strategic Planning – Shayna L. Sonnier

Ms. Sonnier reported that she would be appointing the following individuals to the Strategic Planning Committee: Graham H. Ryan, Chair; and members Barry H. Grodsky, Lynn Luker, Alainna R. Mire, and Edward J. Walters, Jr. Ms. Sonnier added that she and Mr. Talley would serve ad hoc and that she would be appointing a young lawyer representative to the committee. She advised that the committee would begin its work during the current fiscal year, culminating with a strategic planning retreat in September 2024.

Agenda Item 14. Report of the Young Lawyers Division Chair – Senae D. Hall

Ms. Hall reported that the council nominated Quinn K. Brown for 2024-2025 Secretary, and that current Secretary Collin R. Melancon would automatically ascend to the position of Chair-Elect for 2024-2025. 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 15. Report of the Treasurer – Larry J. Centola III

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

Agenda Item 16. Report of the Secretary – Valerie T. Schexnayder

Ms. Schexnayder reported that the Editorial Board held a very productive orientation on August 25, including planning for the next several issues of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*.

Agenda Item 17. Report of the Immediate Past President – Stephen I. Dwyer

Mr. Dwyer reported to the Board that at the ABA meeting held in Denver, the LSBA was honored with the Harrison Tweed Award in recognition of outstanding commitment to access to justice. He recognized Access to Justice Director Monte Mollere and his staff for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the LSBA's access to justice initiatives.

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

Mr. Talley reported that he had been working on plans for the 2024 Annual Meeting/Summer School for Lawyers and Judges, as well as the strategic plan.

Agenda Item 19. Report of the President – Shayna L. Sonnier

- a. **Law School Professionalism Programs** – Ms. Sonnier reported on the successful 1L programs held at Southern and LSU in early August.
- b. **Fall 2023 Meeting** – Ms. Sonnier announced that the next Board of Governors meeting will be held Thursday, November 9 and Friday, November 10, at the Golden Nugget Lake Charles. She encouraged Board members to attend and added that information will be emailed to Board of Governors members by mid-September.
- c. **2024 Midyear Meeting** – Ms. Sonnier announced that the 2024 Midyear meeting will be held Thursday, January 18 through Saturday, January 20 at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel and encouraged everyone to make plans to attend.
- d. **CLE Opportunities** – Ms. Sonnier announced the following upcoming programs and encouraged everyone to consider attending:
 - **New York, New York Multi-Topic CLE**
Saturday, November 18 – Tuesday, November 21
Hotel InterContinental Times Square
[LSBA Events and Seminars](#)
 - **A Grand CLE**
Friday, December 8 – Sunday, December 10
Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection
Point Clear, Alabama
 - **Charm of Quebec City CLE**
Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 1, 2024
Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac
Quebec City, Quebec

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- e. Bar Admissions Changes Under Consideration** – Ms. Sonnier reported to the Board that the Supreme Court was considering a truncated Bar Exam for experienced attorneys licensed in other states. There was some discussion on this issue with the consensus being that more information is needed before the Board could express an opinion. Ms. Sonnier advised that she will report back to the Supreme Court and revisit this issue at the November Board of Governors meeting.

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

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

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

Ms. Grodsky referred members to her written report.

Agenda Item 22. Departmental Reports

Ms. Pierre reported on the success of the Diversity Conclave held earlier that month.

Agenda Item 23. Other Matters

At Mr. Riggs' urging, the Board gave a round of applause to Mr. Mollere and the Access to Justice staff.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Valerie T. Schexnayder

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