



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Reno, NV

April 12, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on April 12, 2017.

The following members were in attendance:

Bryan Scott, President
Gene Leverty, President Elect
Richard Pocker, Vice President
Larry Digesti, Immediate Past President
Paola Armeni
Kimberly Buchanan
Julie Cavanaugh Bill
Eric Dobberstein
Richard Dreitzer
Jack Howard
Paul Matteoni
Ann Morgan
Ryan Russell
Kari Stephens via teleconference
Ryan Works

State Bar staff present:

Kimberly Farmer
Gale Skala
Lisa Dreitzer
Marc Mersol
Stan Hunterton

Guest:

Rew Goodenow

CALL TO ORDER

President Bryan Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:45 am.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bryan Scott presented highlights of the Opening Ceremony of the new Supreme Court building in Las Vegas. Mr. Scott thanked all who were involved in making the event a success.

Mr. Scott updated the Board members on the Supreme Court committee charged with review of matters pertaining the Nevada Bar Exam.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Kim Farmer gave a synopsis on the Western States Bar Conference highlighting programs other states are initiating.

Ms. Farmer also reviewed the most recent security upgrades in the Las Vegas office and updated the Board on the status of the tenant lease that expires in November 2017. It is the intent of the tenant to not renew the lease. Ms. Farmer discussed various lease options and the financial impact of each. Additional review of lease options will be brought to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved: Minutes for January 24, 2017.

Approved Attorney Resignations

Ana Colon Aebi
Ralph Baker
Kenneth Bell
Robert Bork
Peter Herberg
Craig Kellison
George McFetridge
Scott Silverberg
Kaaran Thomas

Approved: 2016 Audit, Bernard Vogler

Contracts

Approved: Annual Meeting: Markey's Rental and Staging

Appointments

Approved:

Family Law Section - one year term ending March 2018:

Chair: Shelly Cooley

Vice Chair: Kim Surratt

Solo & Small Practice Section - a one year term ending March 2018:

Chair: Jenny Hubach

Vice Chair: William C. Devine II

Secretary: Edmund G. Gorman Jr.

Treasurer: Laura Stubberud

Environmental & Natural Resources Section - one year term ending March 2018:

Secretary: Chris Mixson.

The Board discussed the current process used for filling vacancies on state bar committees. It was moved, seconded and carried to require advertisement for all committee openings. And that those seeking reappointment must apply for reappointment. The Board also formed a recruitment committee (Larry Digesti and Bryan Scott) charged with working with staff to recruit volunteers for committee openings, paying specific attention to diversity on committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:00 am and concluded at 10:30 am. The Board Re-entered Executive Session at 1:00 pm and concluded at 1:30 pm.

DISCUSSION

- Trust Account Audits

Kim Farmer provided a report covering options for audits to attorney trust accounts. It was moved, seconded and carried to establish a taskforce to study the issue of random trust account audits. Taskforce members are Richard Dreitzer, chair, Paola Armeni, Jack Howard, Gene Leverty and Ryan Works.

- We the People/Center for Civic Engagement Proposal

Kim Farmer presented an overview of the We the People (WTP) program and the proposal from the Center for Civic Education (CCE). The CCE proposal seeks to take over the management of the We the People program and further develop the expansion to elementary and middle schools.

Upon discussion it was moved, seconded and carried to keep the We the People program with the state bar with focus solely on the high school WTP component and to create a We the People Committee. It was moved seconded and carried to sunset the Law Related Education Committee.

- Clients' Security Fund Report

The Budget Committee provided a report on the status of the Client Security Fund (CSF) and the impact upcoming claims will have on the CSF. It was moved and carried to accept the recommendation of the Budget Committee to rescind the Board's December 2016 action that transferred \$50,000 to the Nevada Lawyers Assistance Program from CSF reserves and the action that held the transfer of the \$25 per active member dues from attorney license fees to the CSF.

REPORTS

Discipline Report

The discipline report showed the status of the Office of Bar Counsel (OBC) and the progress on the discipline backlog.

Grievances in Investigation		
	Grievances	Of Grievances Pending over 6 months
July 2014	538	377
January 2015	441	283
January 2016	243	89
January 2017	79	6
February 2017	73	8

March 2017	109	12
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Matters Pending Hearing			
	Grievances	Matters (Respondents)	Of Matters (Respondents) Pending – those over 6 months
July 2014	415	114	71
January 2015	268	89	61
January 2016	140	69	61
January 2017	123	59	23
February 2017	152	65	54
March 2017	149	62*	57

*Of the 62 matters pending hearing, 37 are scheduled for hearing.

ACTION ITEMS

Financial Report

Marc Mersol reviewed the Financial Operations as of February 28, 2017. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Financial Operations report as of February 28, 2017.

LRIS Grant Program (LRIS)

Kim Farmer presented an overview of the LRIS Public Service Grants Program and the current formula used to determine funds available for granting. Based on declining funds available for granting, Ms. Farmer asked the Board to consider a revised granting formula for 2017 to grant additional funds from the LRIS designated reserve fund. It was moved, seconded and carried to combine the LRIS granting fund and designated fund into one granting fund. And to approve \$50,000 for 2017 grants. And that the funding amounts for the LRIS grants will be considered on an annual basis based on funds available.

New Member Benefit

Kim Farmer provided an overview of the proposal from National Purchasing Partners for a member benefit that offers discounted services from national brands. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the partnership with National Purchasing Partners.

She also discussed the proposal from Ruby Receptionists, a virtual receptionist service system to provide a member benefit program. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the partnership with Ruby Receptionists.

SECTION REPORTS

○ Young Lawyers Section

Kim Farmer reviewed the recent activities of the Young Lawyers Section (YLS). YLS paired up with Nevada Legal Services to hold two ask-a-lawyer sessions for flood victims in northern Nevada. YLS also has two pro bono events on the horizon: Serving Seniors clinic and Project Salute's Armed Services Day clinic.

○ ADR Section Report, Richard Pocker

Richard Pocker gave an overview on the ADR section meeting he recently attended. Mr. Pocker encouraged Board members to attend section meetings.

TASKFORCE REPORTS

○ Reciprocity Taskforce

Ann Morgan provided an overview of the recent meeting of the reciprocity taskforce. The taskforce focused

on the four avenues an attorney can be admitted to practice law in Nevada without taking the Nevada bar exam:

1. Transfer of bar exam scores – The transfer of scores can be related to the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) or other bar exam scores for those jurisdictions not offering the UBE. The Taskforce determined that their focus will be on transfer of bar exam scores only. The Taskforce will not consider whether Nevada should use the UBE to replace the current Nevada bar exam.
2. Attorney examination – this is considered an alternate bar exam. Other jurisdictions use a bar exam, typically shorter than the “standard” bar exam for attorneys seeking licensure in a state.
3. Admission by Motion – an attorney can apply to be admitted.
4. Limited License Certifications – These are the certifications provided under SCR 49.

The Taskforce plans to look at each of the four avenues that provides for an attorney to gain admission to practice in Nevada (without taking the Nevada bar exam) and thoroughly research the pros and cons of each.

- o Juvenile Justice Taskforce

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill reported on the Juvenile Justice Taskforce meeting. Taskforce members have been working on practice standards for the last several months and have developed a set of rules that are currently being revised and reviewed for future possible voluntary specialty certification or for future possible required rules of practice.

Adjourned

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON MAY 18, 2017

Temporary Member of the Commission on Judicial Selection

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Mari Kay Bickett as the temporary member of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON MAY 23, 2017

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Family Law Section’s request to develop an Amicus Brief in the matter, Leslie Lynn Miller v. Brett Robert Miller (No. 69353).