



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

54-113 JULY 2019

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE III.G

DATE: July 11, 2019

TO: Members, Board Executive Committee
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Mark Broughton, Appointments Liaison, Board Executive Committee
Brandon Stallings, Appointments Liaison, Board Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Client Security Fund Commission, Annual Appointment of Members and Officers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda item seeks approval of recommendations for the appointment of Chair, Vice-Chair, and one attorney member of the Client Security Fund Commission ("Commission"). After consideration of the applications received, and the recommendations of the existing members of the Client Security Fund Commission, the Appointments Liaisons recommend the appointment of Shanae S. Buffington, Esquire to the position of Chair and Robert C. Bowman, Jr., Esquire to the position of Vice-Chair. The Appointments Liaisons also recommend the appointment of Douglas J. Hartsough, Esquire to fill the attorney-member vacancy that will be created at the expiration of the current Chair's term. These recommendations are consistent with the Commission's recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Client Security Fund reimburses victims who have lost money or property due to theft or an equivalent dishonest act committed by a California lawyer acting in a professional capacity. To administer the Client Security Fund, the Board of Trustees established the Client Security Fund Commission. At its May 2, 2019, meeting, the Commission voted to recommend the appointment of Shanae S. Buffington, Esquire to the position of Chair and Robert C. Bowman, Jr., Esquire to the position of Vice-Chair. The Commission further resolved to recommend the appointment of Douglas J. Hartsough, Esquire to fill an attorney-member vacancy that will be created at the expiration of Carol A. Klauschie, Esquire's term as Chair of the Commission.

In this review, and historically, when reviewing applications for appointment, the State Bar has not only sought diversity in professional background but also in gender, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, geographic region, sexual orientation, disability and life experience. The State Bar also considers proven commitment to volunteer work or a strong indication of capacity or desire for making the expected time commitment to the Commission. Another important consideration has been whether an applicant's work and/or life experience would be helpful in making determinations on applications to the Client Security Fund, especially if an area of experience is lacking among the current membership.

DISCUSSION

We recommend the appointment of Shanae S. Buffington, Esquire to the position of Chair of the Commission and Robert C. Bowman, Jr., Esquire to the position of Vice-Chair.

Shanae S. Buffington, Esquire currently serves as the Commission's Vice-Chair. Ms. Buffington has been a member of the Commission since 2016 and has been successful in her role. Ms. Buffington's term is scheduled to end in September of 2019, so this would be a re-appointment for an additional year for Ms. Buffington to serve as Chair. Ms. Buffington is currently an attorney with the Employment Development Department in Sacramento where she prepares cases for hearings, including arguing pre-hearing motions, drafting opening, post-hearing, and opposition briefs, and negotiating settlements, among other tasks. Ms. Buffington is also active in the legal community serving as the current Treasurer of the California Association of Black Lawyers and the First Vice President of the Sacramento County Bar Association. Ms. Buffington is currently a member of the State Bar's California Attorney Practice Analysis Working Group (CAPA). Ms. Buffington's skill and experience will be valuable to the Commission through its next term and we thus recommend her appointment as Chair.

Ms. Buffington brings diversity to the Commission. She also brings the perspective of an attorney for a public agency, and has demonstrated a commitment to volunteer work both at the State Bar and in other capacities. She has proven throughout her years on the Commission that she has the desire and the ability to devote the necessary time to the Commission.

Robert C. Bowman, Jr., Esquire currently serves as an attorney-member of the Commission. Mr. Bowman has been a member of the Commission since 2017 and has been successful in his role. His term is scheduled to end in September of 2020. Mr. Bowman is currently the owner and sole shareholder of the Law Office of Bowman and Associates in Sacramento. Mr. Bowman's practice includes employment law, civil litigation, and family law, in addition to other general practice areas. Much of Mr. Bowman's practice consists of representing plaintiffs in bringing employment and discrimination actions against employers. Mr. Bowman is active in the legal community serving as a member of the California Employment Lawyers Association and a pro-tem judge in El Dorado County. Mr. Bowman's skill and experience will be valuable to the Commission through its next term. Mr. Bowman brings his knowledge of family law and employment law to the Commission. He has been an instructor for both the University of the

Pacific and the University of Phoenix and is active as a volunteer in his community. He has demonstrated his desire and ability to devote the necessary time to the Commission.

We also recommend the appointment of Douglas J. Hartsough, Esquire to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the current Chair's term. Mr. Hartsough's prior experience as a Commission member in addition to his life and work experience would be good additions to the Commission. Receiving his J.D. from Golden Gate University and B.A. from San Francisco State University, Mr. Hartsough has a history of serving his community on boards and local nonprofit organizations. Mr. Hartsough served as a member of the Commission from 2009 to 2015, and brings with him the knowledge and requisite skills to serve again in this capacity. Mr. Hartsough is a solo practitioner in Brentwood in Northern California whose practice focuses on representing credit grantors in business transactions and litigation. In his application, he emphasized his ability to devote the necessary time to the Commission.

Mr. Hartsough applied to the Commission for a vacancy last year; however, due to the change in the size of the Commission from 7 to 5 members, there was not a vacancy for Mr. Hartsough last year. Therefore, although no other applications were submitted for the current vacancy, we are confident in the choice of Mr. Hartsough for this position. He brings diversity to the Commission as he lives and practices in a smaller, more rural community in Brentwood, California in Contra Costa County. He brings a unique perspective to the Commission as a solo practitioner working mainly in the area of collections. Mr. Hartsough is a veteran and has also demonstrated a commitment to volunteer work including in his community and previous volunteer work with the State Bar.

As the State Bar did not receive additional applications for this vacancy there is no recommendation for an alternate candidate.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

RULE AMENDMENTS

None

BOARD BOOK AMENDMENTS

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal: None - core business operations

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board Executive Committee and Board of Trustees approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation to extend the term of Shanae S. Buffington for one year and to appoint her to the position of Chair of the Client Security Fund Commission, for the 2019-2020 committee year; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation to appoint Robert C. Bowman, Jr. to the position of Vice-Chair of the Client Security Fund Commission, for the 2019-2020 committee year; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation to appoint Douglas J. Hartsough as an attorney member of the Client Security Fund Commission, for a four-year term beginning in the 2019-2020 committee year.