



The State Bar of California

Board Executive Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2022
9:04 a.m.–10:19 a.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Board Executive Committee meeting commenced in open session at 9:04 a.m. The committee moved to closed sessions at 9:33 a.m. The committee returned to open session at 10:18 a.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 10:19 a.m.

Chair: Ruben Duran

Committee Coordinator: Louisa Ayrapetyan

Members Present: Hailyn Chen, José Cisneros, Gregory Knoll, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings

Members Absent: None

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Board Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Duran. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Duran called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. The following comments were provided to the committee:

1. Sebastian Bendeck, provisionally licensed lawyer, Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles (LAFLA)

Public comment is in support of the full licensure of provisionally licensed attorneys practicing in California. States this action is appropriate given the services performed and merit displayed through the pandemic. Believes that an alternative avenue to licensure would provide a more holistic process that is more representative of the activities required of attorneys.

2. Todd Hill

Public comment is regarding a request to have a nonconflicted ombudsman communicate with them related to their issues with admission to the California Bar.

3. Ava H.

Public comment is regarding their gratitude towards Louisa Ayrapetyan as a public servant, as well as echoing support for Sebastian Bendeck's comment. Believes that the PLL is an excellent pathway to licensure. States that has issues with the First-Year Law Students' exam, but has submitted documentation to the committee.

4. Robyn Loza

Public comment is regarding how they have worked in criminal defense, civil litigation, tax law, and immigration law since the PLL. States that they handle their case load and are responsible for edits and suggestions to their work. Shared numerous personal wins and how the PLL program allowed them to practice what they learned in law school. Believes that they are proof that the California Bar Exam does not determine an attorney's success. Requests an alternative pathway for licensure for PLLs.

5. Patrick Quinn

Public comment is regarding how they began their tenure as a PLL in December 2020, and how they have put in thousands of hours of work at a law firm. Shared numerous personal wins and reiterated that they only become licensed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stated that being able to work as a PLL has allowed them to improve their health and have a steady life. Requests that the Committee think of the PLL program and what a constitutes a competent attorney.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

II. CONSENT

A. Approval of July 21, 2022, Open Session Minutes

Moved by Stallings, seconded by Cisneros

Ayes – (5) Chen, Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

III. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Annual Appointments of Officers and members of State Bar Subentities

Presenter: Louisa Ayrapetyan, Board Secretary and Principal Program Analyst, Office of the Executive Director

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees nominates the following candidates as presented in Attachment A, to a four year term, to the Supreme Court of California, from which the Supreme Court will appoint two new members to the Committee of Bar Examiners: (1) judicial officer: Hon. Amy Guerra; and (2) new lawyer: Ashley Silva-Guzman, commencing at the close of the September 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 22–23, 2022, and expiring at the close of the meeting on September 24–25, 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees directs staff to prepare a list of the candidates so nominated by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on September 22, 2022, and submit it to the Supreme Court of California for consideration on behalf of the Board of Trustees; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Dr. Elise Yenne of the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee as presented in Attachment B, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the September 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 22– 23, 2022, and expiring at the close of the meeting on September 24–25, 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the list of alternate members to the Lawyer Assistance Program 5 Oversight Committee as presented in Attachment B, each for a four-year term if a vacancy is created due to a midterm resignation.

Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Sowell

Ayes – (5) Chen, Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

B. Approval Annual Appointments of State Bar members to the Judicial Council of California

Presenter: Louisa Ayrapetyan, Board Secretary and Principal Program Analyst, Office of the Executive Director

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees reappoint Maxwell Pritt to the Judicial Council of California for a three-year term to commence on September 22, 2022, and to expire September 14, 2025, or until further order of the Board, whichever occurs earlier.

Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Stallings

Ayes – (5) Chen, Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries

C. Approval of California Indian Legal Services Appointment of State Bar Representative to the Board of Trustees

Presenters: Elizabeth Hom, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion
Chris McConkey, Program Supervisor, Office of Access & Inclusion

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Judge Christine Williams to the California Indian Legal Services Board of Trustees for a three-year term commencing on September 22, 2022, and expiring on September 21, 2025.

Moved by Stallings, seconded by Chen

Ayes – (5) Chen, Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries

D. Approval of 2022 Work plan for the California Board of Legal Specialization

Presenter: Donna Hershkowitz, Chief of Programs

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee approves the work plan adopted by the California Board of Legal Specialization and authorizes staff to maintain the work plan and make technical edits and corrections to it as needed.

Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Knoll

Ayes – (5) Chen, Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries

Chair Duran stated that pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a) the committee will move into closed session to discuss the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

I. Business

A. Discussion Regarding Executive Director Performance Evaluation

**Closed pursuant to Government Code § 11126(c)(2).*

OPEN SESSION

The committee returned to open session and reported that there is no action to report from closed session. No further discussion took place in open session.

ADJOURN