



The State Bar of California

Finance Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
4:03 p.m.—6:01 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Finance Committee meeting commenced in open session at 4:03 p.m. The committee moved to closed session at 5:00 p.m. The committee returned to open session at 6:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 6:01 p.m.

Chair: Arnold Sowell Jr.

Committee Coordinator: Mimi Harvey

Members Present: Ray Buenaventura, Sarah Good, Arnold Sowell Jr., Mark Toney

Members Absent: Mark Broughton

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Finance Committee was called to order by Chair Sowell. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sowell 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. Michael Sternberg
 - Michael Sternberg spoke on issues with the State Bar's misconduct investigation process. Sternberg stated that the file size limitation is too low and that the State Bar did not accept evidence. They spoke further on judicial and professional misconduct in a case involving their children.
2. Benjamin Kohn
 - Benjamin Kohn spoke in opposition to the proposed admissions fee increases. Kohn stated that this fee falls on the population that can bear it the least, and that this proposal would not address pending issues, such as pending rules

revisions, initiatives, or the need to bring the State Bar's testing accommodations into compliance.

3. Ben

- Ben stated that the State Bar needed to do a better job at protecting the public from misconduct. Ben spoke further about a complaint against a former attorney and possible violation of the professional code of ethics that is sensitive in nature.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Final Proposal for General Fund Service Fee Increases and Discussion of Proposed Admissions Fund Fee Increases

Presenters: Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer
Lawrence Liao, Financial Analyst, Office of Finance

RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee approves fee increases for the LLP Program as noted in proposed Option #2; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee approves the General Fund fee increase recommendations as reflected in the General Fund Fee Adjustments (Attachment A) and directs staff to implement these increases as soon as is practicable. Any Board action regarding Law Corporation and/or LLP fee changes is not to take effect until after submission to the Supreme Court for approval or a determination approval is not needed; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee recommends that State Bar service fees be reviewed every three years and that the fees are adjusted by the Consumer Price Index annually, if legally permissible.

Note: Trustee Good recused herself on this agenda item and decisions with respect to the fees concerning LLPs and MCLE Provider Certification.

Moved by Toney, seconded by Sowell

Ayes – (3) Buenaventura, Sowell, Toney

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Broughton

Motion carries.

Chair Sowell stated the *Pursuant to Government Code § 11126(c)(7)*, the Finance Committee will move to closed session to consider the items listed on the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

I. BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding Sale Price and Terms and Leasing Price and Terms for 180 Howard Street, San Francisco

**Closed pursuant to Government Code § 11126(c)(7).*

OPEN SESSION

The Finance Committee returned to open session and reported that there is no action to report from closed session.

ADJOURN