



The State Bar of California

Board Executive Committee Hybrid

Open Session Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2023
12:02 p.m.–12:46 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Board Executive Committee meeting commenced in open session at 12:02 p.m. The committee moved into closed session at 12:37 p.m. The committee returned to open session at 12:46 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 9:19 a.m.

Chair: Ruben Duran

Committee Coordinator: Louisa Ayrapetyan

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

Members Absent: Hailyn Chen

Staff Present: Ellin Davtyan, Leah Wilson

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 comment was provided to the committee:

1. Ray Hayden:
Ray Hayden addressed the Board Executive Committee regarding the February 2024 bar exam. He highlighted the significant cost reductions the State Bar could benefit from if the exam were conducted entirely online. Additionally, Mr. Hayden voiced his reservations about the Blue Ribbon Commission's omission to suggest an alternative route to licensing.
2. Michael Sternberg:
Michael Sternberg spoke to the Board Executive Committee, highlighting his worries about the State Bar's complaint procedure and its unwillingness to consider evidence or

initiate investigations. Additionally, Mr. Sternberg delved into the judiciary hearing, particularly voicing his displeasure with the idea of introducing an Inspector General.

3. Todd Hill:

Todd Hill spoke to the Board Executive Committee, conveying his unease about breaches and unmet fiduciary duty contractual commitments. Moreover, he raised issues related to his time serving on the board at the Peoples College of Law, emphasizing significant discrepancies from the college's bylaws, noncompliance, and mishandling of student unit reports.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Duran provided an oral report.

II. MINUTES

A. Approval of May 18, 2023, Open Session Minutes

Moved by Stallings, seconded by Knoll

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

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Chen

Minutes adopted.

III. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Annual Appointment of Officers and Members of State Bar Subentities

Presenters: Brandon Stallings, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees
Melanie Shelby, Member, Board of Trustees
Louisa Ayrapetyan, Board Secretary, Office of the Executive Director

Committee of Bar Examiners

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Nathan Mubashar and Alan Yochelson, as presented in Attachment A, to serve on the Committee of Bar Examiners, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment A, each for the remainder of the resigning member's term if a midterm vacancy is created.

California Board of Legal Specialization

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Jeffrey T. Hammerschmidt to serve as chair and Michael D. Lee to serve as vice-chair as presented in Attachment B, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, 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 approve the appointment of Katrina Darlene Richard, Dana Marie Rueckert, and George Peter Surmaitis as presented in Attachment B, to serve on the California Board of Legal Specialization, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment B, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Council on Access and Fairness

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Judge Kristin Rosi to serve as chair and Judge Michael Rhoads to serve as vice-chair as presented in Attachment C, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, 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 approve the appointment of Arinolayemi “Yemi” Adegbonmire, Terra Davis, Tristan E.H. Higgins, Jazzirelle Hill, as presented in Attachment C, to serve on the Council on Access, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

Committee of Professional Responsibility and Conduct

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Brandon Krueger to serve as chair, Cassidy Chivers to serve as vice-chair, and Sarah Banola to serve as advisor as presented in Attachment D, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, 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 approve the appointment of Deepika Ravi and Mary Grace Guzman, as presented in Attachment D, to serve on the Committee of Professional Responsibility and Conduct, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment D, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of James Head, David Tsai, Abeer Ibrahim, and Maria de la Luz Olaguez, and the reappointment of Camille Panni, Alejandro Delgado, Peter Carson, and David Martinez as presented in Attachment E, to serve on the board of California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 20–21, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 22–23, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment E, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Client Security Fund Commission

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Melanie O’Day to serve as chair and Fenglan Liu to serve as vice-chair as presented in Attachment F, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Justin Delacruz to serve as chair and Heather Benton to serve as vice-chair as presented in Attachment G, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, 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 approve the appointment of Christina Salazar, as presented in Attachment G, to serve on the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee, for a four-year

term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 18–19, 2024, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment G, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Jonathan Sandville and Milan Sindaresan, and the reappointment of Amin Al-Sarraf, as presented in Attachment H, to serve on the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment H, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Maureen Onyeagbako to serve as chair, as presented in Attachment I, for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 19–20, 2024, 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 approve the appointment of Elizabeth Kuczynski D’Orazio, as presented in Attachment I, to serve on the Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 21–22, 2023, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, 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 approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment I, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees appoints Chhaya Malik to serve as the chair of the 2024 Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE) Commission and Lorena Peñaloza to serve as the vice-chair of the 2024 JNE Commission, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the last business

meeting of the 2024 JNE Commission on April 20, 2024, and expiring at the close of the last business meeting of the 2025 JNE Commission on April 20, 2025, or until further order of the Board, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees appoints 11 new members to the 2024 JNE Commission as presented in Attachment J, each for a three-year term commencing upon administration of the oath of the office at the orientation meeting on January 25–27, 2024, and expiring at the close of the last business meeting of the 2026 JNE Commission in April 2027, or until further order of the Board, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment J, each for the remainder of the resigning member’s term if a midterm vacancy is created.

Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Sowell

Ayes – (5) Cisneros, Knoll, Sowell, Stallings¹, Duran

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Chen

Motion carries.

Chair Duran stated that pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a), Board Executive Committee will move to closed session to consider the item listed on the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

I. BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding General Counsel Performance Evaluation

**Closed pursuant to Government Code § 11126(a).*

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURN

¹ Vice-Chair Stallings voted aye, with a specific recusal from agenda item III.A concerning the approval of appointments for the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct.