



# The State Bar of California

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## Board Executive Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Thursday, November 16, 2023  
9:03 a.m.–10:14 a.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:** The Board Executive Committee meeting commenced in open session at 9:03 a.m. The committee moved into closed session at 9:33 a.m. The committee returned to open session at 10:14 a.m.

**Time Meeting Adjourned:** 10:14 a.m.

**Chair:** Brandon Stallings

**Committee Coordinator:** Louisa Ayrapetyan

**Members Present:** José Cisneros, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings, Mark Toney, Genaro Trejo

**Members Absent:** Hailyn Chen, Sarah Good, Melanie Shelby

**Staff Present:** Ellin Davtyan, Leah Wilson

## OPEN SESSION

### ROLL CALL

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

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stallings 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. Tabu Wilson:  
Tabu Wilson inquired about the assignment of Arizona lawyer Shane, questioning the rationale for using out-of-state lawyers for special deputies in California. Tabu Wilson also sought Leah Wilson's attention, questioning her about a redacted police report and its ethical implications, and mentioned writing a book to be published by Smashwords. Tabu Wilson also referenced Paul Pelosi's trial.
2. Tyler G:  
Tyler G, a first-generation law student, working parent, disabled veteran, and CBA graduate, shared his journey juggling professional responsibilities and personal challenges, including his son's autism diagnosis and another son's rare brain cancer. He advocated for the Portfolio Bar

Exam (PBE), emphasizing its necessity in recognizing diverse paths in legal education and practice, and urged the Board to consider it as a permanent, inclusive measure.

3. Sabrina Green-CLA Vice President:

Sabrina Green expressed CLA's opposition to the proposed Portfolio Bar Exam (PBE), citing concerns about its lack of objective and uniform testing and potential negative impacts on diversity in the legal profession. She argued for the necessity of a standard bar exam for consistent and integrity-filled testing.

4. Shirleen Claiche:

Shirleen Claiche suggested considering alternative pathways to legal licensure, highlighting her diverse background. She raised concerns about the practicality and fairness of the PBE, questioning its implementation, supervision, and grading criteria. Claiche emphasized the importance of practical skills, not typically taught in law schools, for legal practice.

5. Reann Pacheco:

Reann Pacheco, representing the Legal Aid Association of California, supported the PBE, emphasizing the legal service providers' expertise in understanding legal needs. She suggested piloting the PBE in IOLTA-funded organizations, highlighting its potential to bridge the justice gap and provide a more equitable and accurate measure of legal competence.

6. Ray Hayden, JD:

Ray Hayden expressed tentative support for the PBE, acknowledging its challenges but deeming it better than no alternative. He planned to reserve detailed comments for the specific meeting segment discussing the PBE.

**I. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Stallings provided an oral report.

**II. MINUTES**

**A. Approval of September 21, 2023, Open Session Minutes**

*Moved by Sowell, seconded by Toney*

*Ayes – (5) Cisneros, Sowell, Toney, Trejo, Stallings*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (3) Chen, Good, Shelby*

*Minutes adopted.*

**III. BUSINESS**

**A. Approval and Ratification of Amendments to the Board Policy Manual**

Presenter: Louisa Ayrapetyan, Board Secretary, Office of the Executive Director

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves the revised Board of Trustees Policy Manual as presented in Attachment B.

*Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Trejo*

*Ayes – (4) Cisneros, Sowell, Trejo, Stallings*

*Noes – (1) Toney*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (3) Chen, Good, Shelby*

*Motion carries.*

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

**I. BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion of Performance Evaluation of General Counsel**

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

**OPEN SESSION**

The committee reconvened in open session and announced that there were no actions to report from the closed session.

**ADJOURN**