



# The State Bar of California

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## Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees Continuation of February 26, 2024, Board Meeting Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Friday, March 1, 2024  
1:03 p.m.–2:55 p.m.

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| <b>Time meeting Commenced:</b> | The Board meeting commenced in open session at 1:03 p.m.  |
| <b>Time meeting Adjourned:</b> | 2:55 p.m.   |
| <b>Chair:</b>                  | Brandon Stallings   |
| <b>Board Secretary:</b>        | Louisa Ayrapetyan   |
| <b>Members Present:</b>        | Patricia Barahona, Raymond Buenaventura, José Cisneros, Sarah Good, Mary Huser, Mattheus Stephens, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings, Mark Toney, Genaro Trejo (joined late) |
| <b>Members Absent:</b>         | Hailyn Chen, Melanie Shelby   |
| <b>Staff Present:</b>          | Ellin Davtyan, Leah Wilson  |

### OPEN SESSION

#### ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Chair Stallings. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

#### 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 Board:

1. Angelina:  
Angelina expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the board amidst challenging times, including the pandemic. They raised serious concerns about longstanding issues of attorney misconduct, citing a history of complaints dating back to 1956 involving their family. The speaker outlined their efforts to engage with the State Bar through multiple complaints, highlighting a specific case involving Attorney Mack Staten's deceitful actions in court and the tragic murder of their attorney, Mark Andaluci, who had submitted complaints before his death. Despite these efforts, the speaker faced challenges in receiving acknowledgments or responses from the State Bar, underscoring a systemic issue in addressing attorney misconduct and ensuring accountability.
2. Anonymous Caller:  
An anonymous caller detailed their experience with the February 2024 California Bar Exam at Cal Palace, Daly City, describing the testing conditions as inhospitable and unacceptable. The caller complained about the extreme cold affecting test-takers' ability to perform,

inadequate bathroom access for a large number of applicants, and a significant surcharge for the exam despite cost-cutting measures that compromised the quality of the testing environment. Issues with the testing location's accessibility, inadequate proctoring, and overall substandard conditions were highlighted, emphasizing the impact on applicants' performance and the perceived negligence by the California State Bar in ensuring fair and conducive testing conditions.

### **30 CHAIR'S REPORT**

No oral report was provided.

#### **701 Approval of State Bar Final 2024 Budget Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 6140.1**

This agenda item was approved at the February 26, 2024, Board meeting.

#### **702 April Legislative Reports: Business and Professions Code Sections 6086.20 and 6145.1**

Presenters: Leah Wilson, Executive Director  
George Cardona, Chief Trial Counsel  
Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer  
Donna Hershkowitz, Chief of Mission Advancement & Accountability Division

Presentation and discussion only.

### **50 CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **50-1 Approval of Specified Contracts Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 6008.6**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees approves execution of the contracts listed herein.

#### **50-3 Proposed Amendments to Rules of the State Bar Relating to Early Neutral Evaluation Conferences and Prefiling Conferences in Misdemeanor Conviction Matters (Amendments to Rules 5.30 and 5.341): Return from Public Comment and Request for Adoption**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees sitting as the Regulation and Discipline Committee hereby approves and adopts amendments to rule 5.30 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachments A and B, and amendments to rule 5.341 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachments C and D; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the effective date of the adopted amendments to rules 5.30 and 5.341 of the Rules of the State Bar of California shall be July 1, 2024.

*Consent calendar moved by Huser, seconded by Buenaventura*

*Ayes – (9) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Huser, Stephens, Sowell, Toney, Trejo, Stallings*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (3) Chen, Good<sup>1</sup>, Shelby*

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<sup>1</sup> Trustee Good was not present during the roll call vote regarding the consent calendar.

*Motion carries.*

This agenda item was pulled from the consent calendar for a separate discussion.

**50-2 Proposed Clarifying and Corrective Amendments to Rules of the State Bar 5.4(29) (Electronic Service Address), 5.226 (Application for Involuntary Enrollment), 5.441 (Filing Requirements), 5.445 (Burden of Proof), 5.461 (Beginning Moral Character Proceedings), 2302 (Disclosure of Information), and 2502 (Investigation Depositions): Return from Public Comment and Request for Adoption**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees sitting as the Regulation and Discipline Committee hereby approves and adopts amendments to rule 5.4, subsection (29) of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment A; rule 5.226 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment B; rule 5.441 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment C; rule 5.445 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment D; rule 5.461 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment E; rule 2302 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment F; and rule 2502 of the Rules of the State Bar of California, as set forth in Attachment G; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the effective date of the adopted amendments to the specified sections of the Rules of the State Bar of California shall be April 1, 2024.

*Moved by Buenaventura, seconded by Stephens*

*Ayes – (9) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Huser, Stephens, Sowell, Toney, Trejo, Stallings*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (3) Chen, Good<sup>2</sup>, Shelby*

*Motion carries.*

**ADJOURN**

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<sup>2</sup> Trustee Good was not present during the roll call vote regarding agenda item 50-2.