



The State Bar of California

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2024
10:03 a.m.–1:06 p.m.

Time meeting Commenced:	The Board meeting commenced in open session at 10:03 a.m.
Time meeting Adjourned:	1:06 p.m.
Chair:	Brandon Stallings
Board Secretary:	Louisa Ayrapetyan
Members Present:	Patricia Barahona, Raymond Buenaventura, Hailyn Chen, José Cisneros, Sarah Good, Mary Huser, Melanie Shelby, Mattheus Stephens, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings, Mark Toney, Genaro Trejo
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	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. Carolin Shining:
Carolin Shining expressed concerns about the State Bar's consideration of disruptive proposals without ample input from practicing attorneys. Highlighting proposals like non-attorney ownership and alternative licensure paths, she advocated for extended consideration periods and deeper engagement with the attorney community. Shining commended efforts to bridge gaps with local bar associations, emphasizing the importance of practitioner insights in shaping future policies to benefit California's legal consumers.
2. Candace Lee:
Candace Lee supported rule changes to allow retroactive expungement for administrative, inactive enrollments due to non-submission of forms or fees on time, citing her personal experience of missing dues and penalties due to disability leave and an office move. She argued that such changes would align with the State Bar's mission by not penalizing attorneys who comply with licensing requirements aside from timely payments, thus avoiding undue harm to their professional reputation.

30 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Stallings provided an oral report.

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

Presenters: Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer
Justin Ewert, Finance Manager, Office of Finance

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts the 2024 Final Budget.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorize staff to make technical adjustments and corrections to the 2024 Final Budget prior to submitting it to the Legislature by February 28, 2024.

Moved by Cisneros, seconded by Sowell

Ayes – (12) Barahona, Buenaventura, Chen, Cisneros, Good, Huser, Shelby, Stephens, Sowell, Toney, Trejo¹, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

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

Presenters: Leah Wilson, Executive Director
Ellin Davtyan, General Counsel
George Cardona, Chief Trial Counsel
Steve Mazer, Chief Administrative Officer
Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer
Donna Hershkowitz, Chief of Mission Advancement & Accountability Division
Yun Xiang, Deputy Chief of Mission Advancement & Accountability Division

Presentation and discussion occurred, with the remaining portion of this topic scheduled for further deliberation at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 1, 2024.

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.

50-2 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),

¹ Trustee Trejo voted aye, with exception to the portion of the budget for grant funding, due to a personal nonfinancial interest.

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.

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.

The consent calendar has been postponed for approval during the special session of the Board of Trustees scheduled for March 1, 2024.

Motion to Adjourn

The Board of Trustees discussed and agreed to adjourn the February 26, 2024, meeting to be held on March 1, 2024, for further discussion of agenda item 702 and the consent calendar.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recess its February 26, 2024, meeting to be held on March 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Moved by Toney, seconded by Cisneros

Ayes – (11) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Good, Huser, Shelby, Stephens, Sowell, Toney, Trejo, Stallings

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Chen

Motion carries.

ADJOURN