



# The State Bar of California

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## Audit Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Monday, March 11, 2024  
12:01 p.m.–12:59 p.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:** The Audit Committee meeting commenced in open session at 12:01 p.m.  
**Time Meeting Adjourned:** 12:59 p.m.  
**Chair:** Mark Toney  
**Committee Coordinators:** Elizabeth Isusquiza, Elizabeth Nolan  
**Members Present:** Patricia Barahona, Raymond Buenaventura, Hailyn Chen, Mary Huser, Mattheus Stephens, Mark Toney  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Staff Present:** Leah Wilson, Ellin Davtyan

## OPEN SESSION

### ROLL CALL

The Audit Committee was called to order by Chair Toney. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Toney 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. Todd Hill:  
Todd Hill inquired about the state of the State Bar of California's whistleblower program. Todd Hill proceeded by bringing attention to the issues and risks he found with the program. He concluded by reinforcing that the whistleblower program is to protect those who come forward with concerns and uphold the values and standards expected by the legal profession and the public.
2. Ronda Kennedy:  
Ronda Kennedy brought attention to underrepresentation issues surrounding a recent experience with the State Bar of California as a member. In addition, Ronda Kennedy also proposed expanding the Board of Trustees from 13 to 15 members with the two additional members being elected by members of the State Bar of California.

## **I. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Toney provided an oral report.

## **II. MINUTES**

### **A. Approval of January 8, 2024, Open Session Minutes**

*Moved by Buenaventura, seconded by Chen*

*Ayes – (4) Buenaventura, Chen, Huser, Toney*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (2) Barahona, Stephens*

*Absent – (0)*

*Minutes adopted.*

## **III. CONSENT**

### **A. Approval of Quarter Four 2023 Board and Management Travel Expenses Report**

**RESOLVED**, that the Audit Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the fourth quarter of 2023 Board and Management Travel expense report in the form presented this day, for the three months ended December 31, 2023.

*Consent Calendar moved by Buenaventura, seconded by Barahona*

*Ayes – (5) Barahona, Buenaventura, Chen, Huser, Toney*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (1) Stephens*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries.*

## **IV. BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of 2024 Audit Committee Work Plan and Calendar**

Presenter: Elizabeth Nolan, Lead Program Analyst, Mission Advancement & Accountability

**RESOLVED**, that the Audit Committee accepts the Audit Committee 2024 work plan and calendar, included in this item as Attachments A and B, and provides the work plan for adoption by the Board Executive Committee.

*Moved by Huser, seconded by Stephens*

*Ayes – (6) Barahona, Buenaventura, Chen, Huser, Stephens, Toney*

Noes – (0)  
Abstain – (0)  
Absent – (0)

*Motion carries.*

**B. Report on State Bar’s Whistleblower Antiretaliation Program**

Presenter:           Ellin Davtyan, General Counsel  
                          Shelby King, Attorney, Office of General Counsel

Presentation and Discussion only.

**C. Update on Independent Financial Audit Request for Proposal Timeline**

Presenter:           Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer

Presentation and Discussion only.

**ADJOURN**