

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
February 20, 2025, 1 p.m.
Fickle & Co. Building
Macon, GA**

Members Participating

Ivy N. Cadle, President; Christopher P. Twyman, President-Elect; R. Javoyne Hicks, Secretary; J. Antonio “Tony” DelCampo, Immediate Past President; Kenneth Mitchell Jr., YLD President; Veronica Cox, YLD President-Elect; Brittanie Browning, YLD Immediate Past President; Norbert “Bert” Hummel; Shiriki Jones; Joyce Gist Lewis; David S. Lipscomb; R. Gary Spencer; and Martin Valbuena.

Members Absent

William C. “Bill” Gentry, Treasurer.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; John Marty, Unlicensed Practice of Law Interim Director; Jennifer McNeely, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer; and Russ Willard, General Counsel.

Call to Order

President Ivy N. Cadle called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Ivy Cadle reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule, including the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors. President-Elect Christopher P. Twyman then reviewed the meetings for the 2025-2026 Bar year.

President’s Report

President Ivy Cadle reported that Executive Director Damon Elmore and Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner will present the unallocated cash report in depth at the Spring Board of Governors Meeting. He thanked the Executive Committee for vetting and approving the many bylaws and governance rules this year and reminded them that the Board of Governors passed them all at the Midyear Meeting in January.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore presented a preview of his unallocated cash report for the Spring Board of Governors Meeting. He shared the overall plans for 2023-2030 including outlines, summary track sheets, and graphs of the ebbs and flows of the unallocated cash.

Treasurer’s Report

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner reported on the provided financial statements through December 2024. He said that the Bar is tracking at the expected 47%, which is where the Bar should be and shows that expenses have been well budgeted to this point. President Ivy Cadle suggested that there be an increase in recorded variances to \$2,500 (from the current \$1,000 threshold). After a motion and a second, the Executive Committee voted to change the threshold to \$2,500 for recorded variances.

YLD Report

YLD President Kenneth Mitchell reported on the activities of the YLD, pointing out that they remain very active. He said that many YLD committees are hosting upcoming CLEs, including a Sports Law Night with the Hawks on March 4. The YLD Signature Fundraiser will be held on March 8 at the Hank Aaron Terrace

at Truist Park, with the theme “A Night on the Diamond,” and the YLD’s Public Interest Internship Program as the recipient. He invited Executive Committee members to attend and sponsor the fundraiser. YLD President Mitchell added that the YLD Spring Meeting will be held in Nashville on March 28-30, where the Leadership Academy will have their third session along with a CLE on the ELVIS Act, a service project to benefit Cycling For Good, and a kickball game with the Tennessee Bar YLD.

Office of the General Counsel Report

General Counsel Russ Willard reported that the last litigation report from the Office of the General Counsel remains constant. He said that they have hired a contract attorney to fill a position recently vacated in OGC while they seek a permanent replacement. General Counsel Willard shared that many bars have noticed an uptick of respondents in disciplinary cases, and also an uptick in grievances filed against bar prosecutors. When that happens, bars, including the State Bar of Georgia, hire outside counsel to prosecute those cases. He said that he has talked with other general counsels about having mutually beneficial reciprocity with states that are seeing the same things, in order to help each other with those cases. That will continue to be an ongoing conversation and is at its earliest stages.

Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Jenn McNeely reported on the Bar’s legislative agenda, along with other bills of interest to the Bar. Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss legislative matters. Thereafter, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session by unanimous vote.

Unlicensed Practice of Law Report

UPL Interim Director John Marty reported an overall review of the Unlicensed Practice of Law Department. He explained that their main responsibility is to review and investigate UPL complaints, and that this is done through the work of Bar staff, the 10 UPL district committees, and the main UPL committee. Since December, the department has revamped and streamlined its procedures; requested that the Supreme Court make appointments to the district committees that needed members; communicated and met with each district committee; created a resource packet for committees; closed numerous outstanding cases; and increased collaboration with the OGC, CLE, and Membership departments and the clerk’s office to ensure everyone complies with the Bar’s rules. He added that he has a plan in place to create working relationships with solicitors across Georgia for the cases that require prosecution.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee liaisons to State Bar committees gave updates regarding their assigned committees.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Javoyne Hicks presented for approval the minutes of the December 5, 2024, and February 5, 2025, Executive Committee meetings, which passed by unanimous vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous vote: Adrienne Ruth Andrews-018940; Robert C. A. Bannerman-103232; Jay Jule Bartlett-825194; Henry Chuang-159005; Allison J. Donner-225599; Lori V. Douglas-770729; Nadine DeLuca Elder-242940; Lindsey Michele Floyd-538989; Sara A. Ford-268225; Patricia Gordon-775730; John B. Hoover-365820; Thomas Q. Langstaff-436725; Janina A. Malone-467877; Karen Milhollin-505950; Elizabeth Carroll Navatto-324741; James Andrew Purcell-873408; Nancy Morris Smith-661694; Greta Elizabeth Swanson-694125; John Cornelius Thomas, III-812684; Curtis Timothy Williford-765650.

Members Requesting Disability

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved two requests for disabled status by unanimous vote.

Request to Waive Late Fees

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, did not approve the request to waive late fees.

Proposed Rules Change

1. *Rule 1-202. Membership Status*

President Ivy Cadle presented background information on how the proposed changes to Rule 1-202, Membership Status, came about. Betsy Griswold and Rachel Spears – Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta – contacted him to discuss expanding the pool of potential pro bono volunteers by lowering the emeritus age from 70 to 65. After reflection and discussion with the Supreme Court of Georgia, these proposed changes go in a different but complementary direction. President Cadle explained that the goal was to do something consistent with addressing the problem and complementing the Georgia Lawyer Competency Task Force.

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith reported on proposed changes to Rule 1-202, Membership Status. This proposed rule would expand the universe of non-active members eligible to provide pro bono services beyond emeritus status members to also include inactive members with at least seven years of active service. The revised rule vests determination of which pro bono organizations are eligible to supervise the provision of such services by non-active members with the Supreme Court. The inactive members can only represent clients referred by an approved pro bono organization. Finally, the revised rule requires that an emeritus status member must take an hour-long CLE (in each CLE renewal period) to be eligible for the provision of such services.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as amended. The Board of Governors will review it as a first read at the Spring Board of Governors Meeting.

2025-2026 License Fee Recommendation to the Board of Governors and Other License Fee Items

President-elect Chris Twyman presented the 2025-2026 license fee recommendation and other license fee items. The motion to submit the following recommendation to the Board of Governors for approval passed by unanimous vote:

1. Dues at \$270 for active members and \$135 for inactive and provisional members (an increase of \$6 for active members and \$3 for inactive members).
2. Center for Lawyer Wellbeing and Section Dues (\$10 to \$50).
3. Clients' Security Fund (\$15 per member per Rule 1-506).
4. Professionalism Fee (\$11/year).
5. Legislative and Public Education Fund Contribution (\$100 optional contribution).
6. Georgia Legal Services Program (\$400 suggested individual contribution/\$100 suggested contribution for young lawyers).

Approval of the 2025-2026 Proposed State Bar Budget

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the 2025-2026 State Bar budget as proposed.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

President Ivy Cadle was contacted by the BOG out-of-state representatives, who both requested consideration of payment for their expenses for flights and lodging for the Board of Governors meetings. The Executive Committee recognized the value out-of-state representation brings to the organization but did not take action on changing the current expense policy.

Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported that he was contacted by a member who was upset by only receiving a certificate and letter for his 50 years of service. Bar executive staff will share the feedback and take the member's request into consideration.

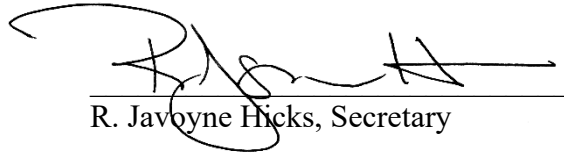
Announcements

YLD President-elect Veronica Cox announced that she and her husband are expecting their second daughter in May.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Approved:



R. Javoyne Hicks, Secretary



Ivy N. Caddle, President