

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 3, 2024, 1 p.m.  
Baker Donelson  
Atlanta, GA**

Members Participating

Ivy N. Cadle, President; Christopher P. Twyman, President-Elect; 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; Bert Hummel; Joyce Gist Lewis; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and R. Gary Spencer.

Members Absent

William C. “Bill” Gentry, Treasurer; and Shiriki Jones.

Staff Participating

Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Megan Jones, Executive Administrative Assistant; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer; and Russ Willard, General Counsel Designate.

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 N. Cadle reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule, including the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

President’s Report

President Ivy N. Cadle began his report by acknowledging recent tragic events in Georgia including the incident at Apalachee High School, Hurricane Helene, and the Biolab fire in Conyers. He expressed condolences and solidarity with those affected by these incidents and led the committee in a moment of silence. He then provided updates on the new Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Technology and explained its mission of reviewing Bar rules and how they apply to AI and technology. He also reported on the Supreme Court of Georgia’s new Study Committee on Limited Scope Legal Practice, which will consider the possibility of creating a class of legal practitioners that will have limited authority to practice law. The Bar is entitled to five appointments to the Court's committee, which will consist of attorneys recognized as leaders in their respective sections.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the Bar’s state of operations is strong. He commended the collaborative efforts of President Cadle and Chief Justice Boggs, who, in response to Hurricane Helene, evaluated member needs and quickly worked to provide solutions. He highlighted the work of the SOLACE program to provide necessities and supplies to those in the heavily impacted area of Augusta. He noted the Atlanta Hawks recently expressed interest in using the parking deck for employees during game nights, but they decided not to proceed due to cost. Executive Director Elmore reported on the continued plans for the Office of the General Counsel to relocate to the second floor. This move will create more space for both OGC and the Bar’s administrative departments while allowing OGC personnel to have a shared space rather than the fragmented space they currently occupy. He detailed plans for the use of the unallocated cash fund, including the OGC move, the electrical panel upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations in the parking deck, and furniture for the third-floor conference center. He mentioned that changes to the Continuing Legal

Education compliance requirements have been submitted to the Court, but implementation will likely be delayed beyond the expected January 1 timeline. He reported the upcoming onboarding of Jennifer McNeely as the new Director of Governmental Affairs. He recognized the recent efforts of the Communications team and Chief Operating Officer Sarah Coole for the successful website redesign, as well as the Membership, Accounting, Sections, and Meetings departments for their work on the iMIS systems upgrade.

#### Treasurer's Report

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner presented the year-end financials, noting that the Bar performed better than the budget projections. This was partially due to gains on investments, although these were primarily paper gains as there has not been active trading. The unallocated cash fund showed a slight overall downturn. He reported that the audit process is mostly complete and that the results will be available soon.

#### Office of the General Counsel Report

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the litigation report. Thereafter, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session by unanimous voice vote.

#### YLD Report

YLD President Kenneth Mitchell reported on the activities of the Young Lawyers Division, including the recent "Take a Hike" outing at Sweetwater Creek and an upcoming litigation event titled "When in Rome," scheduled for October 21 in Rome, GA. A Halloween-themed social hour, "Judges Aren't So Scary" will provide an opportunity for members to meet the judiciary. Preparations are underway for the Fall Meeting, which will feature a CLE on social media ethics and a community service project in partnership with Hand in Hand of Glynn, collecting personal hygiene items for individuals experiencing homelessness. YLD President Mitchell also shared that this year's Leadership Academy class has been announced, and that interest and participation in this program has remained high.

#### Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Javoyne Hicks presented for approval the minutes of the August 22, 2024, Executive Committee meeting, which passed, as amended, by unanimous vote.

#### Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous vote: William Henry Barfield--614394, David Sewell Bills-057132, David Bokman-065758, Glenn Micheal Booker-067524, Desiree' Archie Crawford-021218, James David Dill-904316, Claire Coleman Earwood-378754, Todd S. Fairchild-254185, Kenneth R. Hannahs, Jr.-323578, Craig Robert Haughton-339210, Erin Elizabeth Honeycutt-118500, Heidi Elizabeth Kaufman-312553, Lori E. Kilberg-417510, Sarah Fritsch Kuipers-387444, Tanya M. Lawson-024646, Three Merians-385116, Ariel Madison Newman-227389, Sharon C. Patrick-Wilson-566230, Abigail J. Politzer-141429, Mindi Cherese Robinson-159068, Sonya Pei Shao-211263, Janine Elizabeth Toner-141595.

#### Proposed Bylaws and Rules Changes

##### *Bylaws*

1. Article I. Members. Section 1. Registration of Members. Bar Counsel recommends this proposed amendment after discussing it with the Bar President. The proposed changes take a long paragraph, break it into subparts, and simplify the language.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

2. Article I. Members. Section 2. Active Members and Foreign Law Consultants. Bar counsel

recommends this proposed amendment after discussing it with the Bar President. The proposed change is a housekeeping amendment, adding “good standing” language and enabling rule for foreign law consultants.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

3. Article I. Members. Section 6. Affiliate Members and Law Student Members. The Membership Department brought this proposed amendment to Bar Counsel’s attention. The change would make the bylaw match Rule 1-206.1 by removing the requirement that a law student member attend a law school in Georgia and making other housekeeping changes.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

4. Article VIII. Committees - Generally. Section 5. Authority to Establish Internal Rules. Bar counsel recommends this new bylaw based on some issues from two committees. The purpose of this new bylaw is to provide explicit authority for a committee to establish its operation or procedural rules. While Roberts Rules allow for standing rules, a statement in the bylaws will provide explicit authority.

Following discussion, by unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as amended.

5. Article VIII. Committees - Generally. Section 6. Quorum. Bar counsel recommends this new proposed bylaw based on several complaints from staff and committees. Many of the State Bar committees have a large number of members, with some rarely, or in some cases never, attending a committee meeting, making establishing a quorum difficult. This bylaw is required to lower the Roberts Rules quorum requirement of 50% +1 to 40% of the committee membership. This can only be accomplished via a bylaw change.

By majority vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

#### *Bar Rules*

1. Rule 1-501.1 License Fees—Late Fee. The Membership Department requested this proposed change, which removes the escalating late fee and sets it at \$100. It also eliminates any waiver of payment of late fees.

Following discussion, the Executive Committee tabled the vote until their next meeting.

2. Rule 10-106. Eligible Claims. This proposed change comes from the Clients’ Security Fund Board of Trustees. This rule change corrects an oversight that seems to prohibit the Trustees from paying a claim if the lawyer is deceased or disabled and requires that the claimant cannot ask for relief unless the lawyer has a final disciplinary action from the Supreme Court of Georgia. This proposed change cleans up the rule, making it more concise.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

#### *Section Bylaws*

1. Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented proposed changes to the Franchise and Distribution Section Bylaws, which the Executive Committee unanimously approved.
2. Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented proposed changes to the Alternate Dispute Resolution Section Bylaws, which the Executive Committee unanimously approved.

3. Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented proposed changes to the Real Property Law Section Bylaws, which the Executive Committee unanimously approved.
4. Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented proposed changes to the Antitrust Section Bylaws, which the Executive Committee unanimously approved.

### Proposed Bylaws and Rules Changes (Discussion)

#### *Bylaws*

1. Article III. Board of Governors. Section 13. Standing Board Policies. This is a new bylaw that provides authority for Standing Board Policies. While Roberts Rules allows for “standing rules,” this proposed change enables all Board Standing policies, providing clarity. Bar Counsel recommends this proposed change after some conversations with certain members.

By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the proposed change as presented.

2. Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 1. Members. This proposed change appears to be recommended by everyone who comes in contact with this bylaw. This is a rewrite of the EC Election bylaw, designed to clarify and simplify the former confusing and onerous bylaw that has caused issues in the past.

After discussion, the Executive Committee requested that the Office of the General Counsel revise the proposed rule and provide different versions based on different scenarios.

3. Article IV. Executive Committee. Section 3. Misconduct and Removal. This new bylaw guides the removal process for officers, board members, volunteers, guests, and others who have engaged in misconduct.

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss potential changes for a new draft of a misconduct policy. Thereafter, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session by unanimous vote.

#### *Bar Rules*

1. Rule 1-302. Composition. This is a rewrite of the rule that defines the composition of the Board of Governors. This proposed change is designed to simplify and remove old, archaic language that is no longer relevant and make the rule more understandable.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

2. Rule 1-501. License Fees. The Membership Department requested this proposed rule change. The proposed changes greatly simplify the appeal process for challenging a delinquent dues payment and reduce the termination date from five years to three years, which matches the Office of Bar Admissions rules.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### Governance Rules

General Counsel Paula Frederick presented a proposed Code of Conduct to be used as a reminder in meeting brochures and posted at meetings, etc. This does not need to be voted on for approval by either the Executive

Committee or the Board of Governors. However, the Executive Committee did vote unanimously to put this before the Board as an informational item at the Fall Meeting.

Standing Executive Committee and Board Policy Review

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Updates

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Officer Reimbursement Policy

The State Bar of Georgia Officer and Non-Officer Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy was provided as an informational item. The updated version reflects the changes to the amount allotted for lodging, which the Executive Committee requested at the August meeting: "\$300 or the negotiated rate."

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

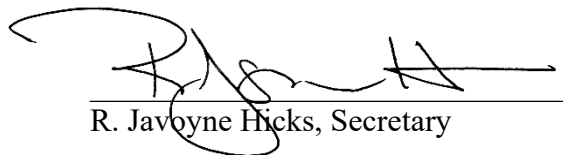
There was no new business.

Announcements

General Counsel Paula Frederick announced the upcoming memorial being held in honor of Phyllis Holmen. YLD President-Elect Veronica Cox announced that the YLD disaster relief initiative has received around 500 calls in the past week and that training for volunteers will be held soon.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



R. Javoyne Hicks, Secretary

Approved:

