

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**Alabama State Bar and via Zoom
October 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Perry convened the meeting of the Alabama State Bar Executive Council at 2:00 p.m. in the Balch Conference Room at the Alabama State Bar.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary took the roll of the Executive Council, and the following were present:

Tom Perry, Brannon Buck, Ryan Duplechin, Jana Garner, Tom Heflin, Pat Sefton, John Stamps and Mark Boardman.

The following staff members were present: Terri Lovell, Roman Shaul, and Chad Coker

The following members were absent:

Fred Helmsing, Aigner Kolom, Ron Strawbridge, and Halron Turner

QUORUM PRESENT

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2024, WAS MADE BY BRANNON BUCK, SECONDED BY PAT SEFTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, WAS MADE BY BRANNON BUCK, SECONDED BY PAT SEFTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tom Perry began his remarks by informing the committee of his attendance at Red Mass and the Opening of Courts wherein he honored the members of the bar that had recently passed away. Perry spoke of his progress in implementing his Harvesting Hope platform and mentioned he has engaged with Dean Hudson of Cumberland School of Law, as well as other members of the

bar, regarding setting up a non-profit for his platform. Perry has appointed a Harvesting Hope task force and they will hold their initial meeting on October 17, 2024.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Terri B. Lovell provided the Executive Committee with a quarterly report summarizing her efforts along with bar staff since the annual meeting. Lovell indicated it was a busy time as licensing season was underway and bar exam results were recently released. She informed the committee that a welcome call was held with all committee chairs and invited all committee members to attend the admissions ceremony on October 25, 2024. Finally, Lovell stated the Alabama Supreme Court had entered an order directing the bar to begin work on a state specific component for the bar exam. The Supreme Court has set a timeline for the Board of Bar Examiners to submit a plan for implementation to the Court by March 25, 2025.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul discussed several orders issued by the Alabama Supreme Court last week. The Court, via order, has determined they are to have the final say regarding any regulations passed by any board or commission as it relates to the regulation of the legal practice. Shaul indicated that proposed regulation and rule changes will both be forwarded to the Court for future determination. Shaul mentioned he and Michael Upchurch were continuing discussions with the Court regarding Rule 7 advertising amendments.

HARVESTING HOPE REPORT

Tom Heflin gave his report regarding the efforts on the Harvesting Hope platform of President Perry. Heflin stated he and President Perry had met with the Blackbelt Community Foundation in addition to the Cumberland meeting previously mentioned by President Perry. Heflin has also engaged with Legal Services of Alabama regarding his efforts. At the present time the focus of their efforts has been to work towards a legal incubator model and seek to recruit potential candidates without any assurance of money. He did indicate that President Perry had been in contact with an individual who is interested in opening a law practice in Marion, Alabama.

FRED GRAY COURTYARD PROJECT

Director of Operations Chad Coker gave a report regarding the progress towards completion of the sculpture project. The projected completion date of the sculpture is early November. Committee members are meeting with additional vendors this week in regards to necessary concrete and masonry work to complete site preparation. It is the hope of the committee to have an unveiling of the completed project in December 2024.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024, BOARD OF BAR COMMISSION AGENDA

MOTION BY BRANNON BUCK TO APPROVE BBC AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024, SECONDED BY PAT SEFTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

NEW BUSINESS

Ryan Duplechin informed the committee of a request from the North Carolina Bar for help and assistance regarding pro bono efforts in their state in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. A pro bono subcommittee of the Young Lawyers Section will be assisting lawyers in signing up to assist in these efforts.

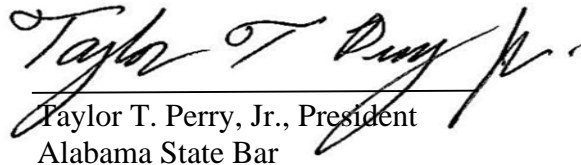
Director Terri Lovell informed the committee that Margaret Murphy has retired and further announced that Hilaire Armstrong had been hired to replace Linda Lund, who is retiring as Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program. Lovell also informed the committee that the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program director's vacancy is being advertised and interviews for this position would begin after October 15th.

Finally, a discussion was held by President Perry regarding Chief Justice Tom Parker's request for the appointment of two individuals by the Alabama State Bar to a task force he is convening regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Alabama court system.

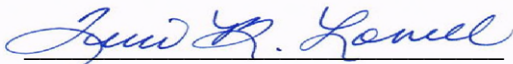
MEETING ADJOURNED

President Tom Perry asked if there was any further business to come before the Executive Council. There being no further business to come before the board, a MOTION BY BRANNON BUCK TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY PAT SEFTON, WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Perry adjourned the meeting on at 2:36 p.m.


Taylor T. Perry, Jr., President
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar