

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**Alabama State Bar and via Zoom
January 9, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Mark Boardman, Brannon Buck, Ryan Duplechin, Jana Garner, Tom Heflin, Fred Helmsing, Aigner Kolom, Tom Perry, Pat Sefton, John Stamps, Ron Strawbridge, and Halron Turner

The following staff members were present: Terri Lovell, Chad Coker, Merinda Hall, Karen Laneaux and Melissa Warnke

The following members were absent: None

QUORUM PRESENT

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 31, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2025, WAS MADE BY JANA GARNER, SECONDED BY PAT SEFTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 31, 2024, WAS MADE BY PAT SEFTON, SECONDED BY RON STRAWBRIDGE, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tom Perry began his remarks discussing the success of his ongoing Toolbox Tour. Events have been held in Columbiana, Dothan, and Decatur. He further discussed the progress of his Harvesting Hope initiative and reported on his recent trip with lawyers from across this state to the island of Cuba.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Terri Lovell informed the committee of the retirement of Deborah Harper, a paralegal in the VLP program. She announced the hiring of Jill Evans to the Law Practice Management Advisor position. Lovell provided a detailed report regarding attorneys who have not submitted their CLE compliance or renewed their license for the bar year. She also stated the bar was continuing to handle year end matters that consumed a good deal of time and resources of the staff.

Lovell called upon Melissa Warnke to provide a report to the EC regarding a recent meeting of the Alabama Lawyer Board of Editors. Warnke informed the council of the desire of the Board of Editors to move to four (4) issues per year of the Alabama Lawyer as a cost saving matter and to also allow for more time to be devoted to the content of the publication.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRANNON BUCK RECOMMENDING THE BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS CONSIDER REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ISSUES OF THE ALABAMA LAWYER TO FOUR (4) PER YEAR AND SECONDED BY FRED HELMSING. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul was unable to attend the meeting, but Executive Director Lovell reminded the council of Shaul's decision to host a legal summit at the state bar building on March 4, 2025.

FINANCE and AUDIT REPORT

Finance Director Merinda Hall informed the council revenues were up nearly 2% over last fiscal year. She reported that MCLE fees are increasing, and that spending is down in most categories. Hall reported investments for the fiscal year slightly decreased due to the financial market, but the ASB is off to a good start in the new fiscal year. Hall stated the compliance audit, by the Examiner of Public Accounts, and financial audit, by Carr Riggs, remain ongoing.

BAR EXAM and ADMISSIONS REPORT

Karen Laneaux, Director of Admissions, reported the Board of Bar Examiners are on schedule to issue a report to the Supreme Court by March 2025, setting forth a timeline to achieve the directive of the Court to add a state specific component to future bar exams. The Board is awaiting word from the Court regarding whether the NextGen Bar Exam will be adopted to formulate subject matter for the state specific component. No changes will be made to the current exam before July 2028.

Laneaux also provided a report to the council regarding the Court's instruction for the ASB to consider the reciprocity issue and determine if the 75% commitment to practice in Alabama

requirement should remain in effect. The consensus of the Board of Bar Examiners is to abolish this requirement however further discussion will need to be held with the Board of Bar Commissioners on this issue.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 24, 2025, BOARD OF BAR COMMISSION AGENDA

A discussion was held regarding the approval of the agenda. Brannon Buck requested that discussion of revisions to the Alabama Code of Professional Responsibility be added along with the request of the Board of Editors of the Alabama Lawyer mentioned earlier.

MOTION BY RON STRAWBRIDGE TO APPROVE BBC AGENDA OF JANUARY 24, 2025, WITH THE REQUESTED ADDITIONS WAS SECONDED BY JANA GARNER, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

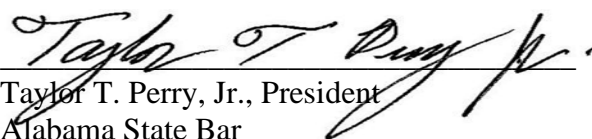
NEW BUSINESS

A brief discussion was held regarding the Court's most recent order directing the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation to cease collecting IOLTA monies and directing all IOLTA funds be deposited with the Alabama Law Foundation beginning February 2025. Executive Director Lovell informed the council the bar continues to work with both entities to ensure a smooth transition considering this directive.

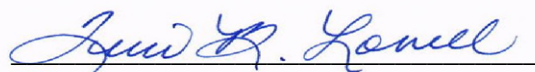
MEETING ADJOURNED

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 PAT SEFTON TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY JOHN STAMPS, WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Perry adjourned the meeting on at 3:36 p.m.


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

ATTEST:


Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar