

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Texas Law Center  
Austin, TX  
Thursday, March 8, 2018**

The Executive Committee met on March 8, 2018 in Austin at the Texas Law Center. President Tom Vick called the meeting to order at 10:30am, and Executive Director Trey Apffel called the roll.

**Present:** Chair Rehan Alimohammad, Christy Amuny, Wendy Burgower\*, Estrella Escobar, Immediate Past Chair Joe Escobedo\*, Philip Mack Furlow\*, Ann Greenberg, Angelica Hernandez, President-elect Joe K. Longley, Audrey Moorehead\*, TYLA President-elect Sally Pretorius, TYLA President Baili Rhodes, Scott Rothenberg, Greg Sampson, Immediate Past President Frank Stevenson, Scott Stolley and President Tom Vick.

**Excused absence:** Laura Gibson, Justice Phil Johnson\* and Gary Nickelson

*\*Nonvoting member*

I. Remarks from the General Public:

Carlos Leon from Austin, TX addressed the Executive Committee regarding a dismissed grievance.

Bob Bennett from Houston, TX addressed the Executive Committee regarding district director elections.

II. REPORTS

A. Report from the Executive Director:

Executive Director Trey Apffel reported on his recent travels that included: Leadership SBOT in Galveston, Austin Bar Association, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Council of Chairs, National Association of Bar Executives and National Conference of Bar Presidents at their midyear meetings. Mr. Apffel reported that State Bar staff completed harassment prevention training, and that the State Bar plans to begin videotaping the Board of Directors meeting to help promote transparency and help educate people about the work the Bar does.

Mr. Apffel reported that March 1, was the deadline for District Director Candidates to file their petitions with the executive director. Robert Bennett, of Houston, filed a petition late in the day on March 1 (approximately 4:11 pm) to run for District 4, Place 3. The role of the Executive Committee is to consider, discuss, and make a final determination concerning the eligibility for Robert Bennett as a candidate for District Director 4, Place 3. **{Exhibit A}**

**Immediate Past President Frank Stevenson motioned that the Executive Committee vote... Philip Mack Furlow seconded. Mr. Longley called for a roll call vote. No discussion; motion carried.**

B. Approval of Minutes:

**Upon motion properly made by Joe K. Longley and seconded by Estrella Escobar, the minutes of the September 7, 2017, Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented. {Exhibit B}**

C. Report from the President: President Tom Vick reported on his recent travels, the State Bar of Texas's participation in ABA Days in Washington, DC., Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts, solo small firm CLE outreach efforts, and the upcoming 2018 Annual Meeting. President Vick announced that Chair Alimohammad received the University of Houston Law School Alumni Association's annual Diversity and Inclusion awards. He also reported that the General Counsel search committee plans to recommend a qualified candidate to the Board at the April Board meeting. **{EXHIBIT C}**

B. Report from the President-elect: President-elect Joe K. Longley reported on extending the Transparency Task Force and the Financial Responsibility and Fiscal Control Task Forces and the opioid litigations being filed around the United States and the state of Texas.

<sup>1</sup> Exhibits A through F are available at [www.texasbar.com/bodcentral](http://www.texasbar.com/bodcentral) under Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

Mr. Longley reported that the public hearing on the State Bar's FY 2018-19 proposed budget will be held on April 3 at the Texas Law Center. A motion will be made at the April meeting to obtain Board approval to present the proposed budget to the Supreme Court.

President-elect Longley made a motion on behalf of the Budget Committee to approve the presentation of the FY 2018-2019 proposed budget to the Supreme Court. Coming from a committee, no second is needed. No discussion; motion carried. **{EXHIBIT D}**

- D. Report from the Immediate Past President: Immediate Past President Frank Stevenson reported that as of the end of January 2018, TOJI lawyers have represented approximately 470 clients, including engagements and appointments since April 2017. This client count includes 50 pro bono clients and 175 modest-income clients.
- E. Policy Manual Subcommittee: Director Philip Mack Furlow reported that the subcommittee is working on disaster relief responses, officers requests and the General Counsel position in the policy manual.
- F. Administration Committee: Director Scott Stolley had no report.
- G. Audit & Finance Committee: Director Tim Mountz reported that The amount of General Fund net revenues over expenditures budgeted for this point in the fiscal year was approximately \$651 Thousand and the actual net amount was approximately \$2.1 Million. The result was a positive net variance for the 8 months ending January 31 of approximately \$1.5 Million or 229%. The State Bar's independent internal auditors, McConnell and Jones, LLP, completed their audit last month in accordance with the Internal Audit Plan. The auditors provided three audit reports that are included in your packet. They are: Audit #18-001 Public Funds Investment Act; Audit #18-002 Compliance Audit and Audit #18-003 Follow-Up on Open Audit Findings. **{EXHIBIT E}**
- H. Nominations & Elections Subcommittee: Immediate Past Chair Joe Escobedo reported March 1 was the deadline for candidates to submit petitions for President-elect and director. We did not receive any petitions for the position of President-elect. We will have two candidates in the election for that office, Lisa Blue and Randy Sorrels. Ballots will be distributed starting April 2 and the election will conclude on May 1. The dates for a runoff if needed are May 10 through May 24. **{EXHIBIT F}**
- I. Discipline & Client Attorney Assistance Committee:
- J. Professional Development Subcommittee: Scott Rothenberg reported that the subcommittee will meet jointly with the CLE Committee on April 18 where they will develop new topics for webcasts and other events and hear staff reports on operations and finances. Last fiscal year, TexasBarCLE awarded 509 scholarships, with a retail value of more than \$200,000.
- K. Insurance/Member Benefits Subcommittee: Scott Rothenberg reported that Enrollments have already exceeded projections for this fiscal year. Major medical enrollments in the Insurance Exchange have grown by 19%. The number of individuals enrolled in one or more products has grown by 13%. The subcommittee is considering enhancements to the program which will be presented at the April Board meeting. Director Rothenberg reported that there are two major undertakings that the subcommittee will be working on: affordable member websites and review of the Bank of American partnership.
- L. Section Representatives to the Board: Audrey Moorehead reported that there are two new section representatives: Emily Miller of Brownwood and Matthew Kolodoski of Dallas.
- M. Supreme Court Liaison Report: Nina Hess Hsu gave no report.
- N. Texas Young Lawyers Association: TYLA President Baili B. Rhodes reported that TYLA filmed video content for "Free From Violence" as well as two live cast CLE's. She highlighted her project, "Teach Safe, Learn Safe, Be

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Safe”. President Rhodes reported that the National Trial Competition will be held at the end of April in Austin. TYLA’s nominees for President are Victor Flores (Denton) and Raymond Baeza (El Paso).

- O. **Closed Session: At 11:59 am, the Executive Committee recessed the open meeting and reconvened in closed session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding pending litigation or contemplated litigation, including Jovita Pardo v. the State Bar of Texas et al. and LegalForce RAPC Worldwide v. LegalZoom et al.: and Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s). With the exception of Board liaisons and Section representatives, all other individuals including non-essential staff and other guests excused themselves from the closed session.**

**Open Session: At 12:57 pm, the open session of the Executive Committee meeting reconvened. During the closed session, only matters relating to consultations with legal counsel concerning contemplated litigation were discussed. No action was taken in closed session.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 a.m.

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