

OFFICIAL
MINUTES
STATE BAR OF TEXAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. CDT

Hilton Anatole
Wedgwood Ballroom
2201 N. Stemmons Fwy.
Dallas, TX 75207

A. Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. CDT from Chair of the Board Kennon Lily Wooten

B. Roll Call from Executive Director Trey Apffel

Present:

Executive Director Trey Apffel*, Rob Addy, President-elect Steve Benesh, Cade Browning, Elizabeth Sandoval Cantu, Luis Cavazos, Jason Charbonnet, Craig Cherry, Steve Chiscano, Jeff Cochran, David Courreges, Diana Gomez, August Harris, Britney Harrison, Noelle Hicks, Matthew Hill, Forrest Huddleston, Krisi Kastl, Lowell Keig, Rebecca Linehan, Caren Lock, Incoming TYLA President-elect Alyson Martinez, TYLA President-elect Hisham Masri, Dwight McDonald, Rudy Metayer, Chris Nickelson, Rosalind Perez, Christopher Pineda, TYLA President Laura Pratt, Shannon Quadros, John Sloan, Drew Spaniol, Incoming Chair of the Board Paul Stafford, Alex Stelly, Jr., Carlo Taboada, Radha Thiagarajan, President Cindy Tisdale, Incoming President-elect Santos Vargas, Michael Vasquez, Stephen Venzor, Jeff Weinstein, Chief Disciplinary Counsel Seana Willing*, Chair of the Board Kennon Lily Wooten, Jeff Work, Chris Wrampelmeier, and Michael Wynne.

Liaisons*: Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann, Judge Jesse McClure III, Judge Bill Miller, and Justice Evan Young.

Section Representatives*: Jerry Bullard, Kenda Culpepper, Pierre Grosdidier, Laura Ellis Kugler, Toni Nguyen, and Brandy Wingate Voss.

Excused Absence: Judge Jeff Brown*, Lawrence Morales II, Chris Popov, and Aaron Tobin.

**Nonvoting member*

C. Invocation by Director Craig Cherry

D. Pledge to the U.S. and Texas Flags by Director Kenda Culpepper

E. Remarks from the General Public

Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment during the meeting. There was one member of the public, Theresa “Stormy” Hayes, who appeared in person; remarks were given.

F. Swearing-in

Outgoing Chair of the Board Kennon Lily Wooten passed the gavel to Director Paul K. Stafford as Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann administered the oath of office to incoming Chair Paul K. Stafford. Chair Stafford gave personal remarks and discussed the Board Committees and Advisors and Alternate Advisors to State Bar Sections and Standing Committees assignments for the 2024-25 Bar year.

Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann then administered the oath of office to incoming President-elect Santos Vargas, and Vargas made brief remarks.

Chair Stafford called all incoming Directors, Liaisons, and Section Representatives of the Board to come forward, and Senior Justice Lehrmann administered the oath of office *en masse*.

Incoming President Steve Benesh gave personal remarks.

G. Report from Executive Director Trey Apffel

Executive Director Apffel provided a general report. Comments were made by Director Toni Nguyen.

H. Texas Young Lawyers Association

TYLA Incoming President Hisham Masri provided a general report and reported on his projects as President of TYLA for the Bar year 2024-25.

I. Report from the General Counsel

General Counsel Ross Fischer provided a brief report on Personal Financial Statements.

J. Report from Chief Legal Counsel and Closed Session

- a. Closed Session: At 9:47 a.m., the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors recessed the open meeting and reconvened in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding *Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association*, 86 F.4th 620 (5th Cir. 2023), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00314) (W.D. Tex.), *Washington v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00526-RP) (W.D. Tex.), *Yan v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No 4:23-cv-758) (N.D. Tex.), *Butler v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 4:23-CV-01070) (E.D. Tex.), *Robins v. State Bar of Texas, et al.* (No. 202418660) (129th District Court, Harris County), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. D-1-GN-24-002025) (201st District Court, Travis County), legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca, and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s).
- b. Open Session: At 10:09 a.m., the open session of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors meeting reconvened. During closed session, only matters relating consultation with legal counsel regarding *Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association*, 86 F.4th 620 (5th Cir. 2023), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00314) (W.D. Tex.), *Washington v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00526-RP) (W.D. Tex.), *Yan v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No 4:23-cv-758) (N.D. Tex.), *Butler v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 4:23-CV-01070) (E.D. Tex.), *Robins v. State Bar of Texas, et al.* (No. 202418660) (129th District Court, Harris County), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. D-1-GN-24-002025) (201st District Court, Travis County), and legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca.
- c. No action was taken during closed session.

K. SBOT Mission Statement

Director Matthew Hill led the Board in reciting the mission statement.

- L. There being no further business, Chair of the Board Stafford called for a motion to adjourn. Director Rudy Metayer made the motion. Seconded by Director Craig Cherry. Chair Stafford adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.**