

**OFFICIAL  
MINUTES  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. CDT**

**The Westin Galleria  
Plaza Ballroom  
5060 West Alabama St.  
Houston, TX 77056**

**A. Call to Order at 1:00 p.m. CDT from Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford**

**B. Roll Call from Executive Director Trey Apffel**

***Present:***

Executive Director Trey Apffel\*, President Steve Benesh, Judge Jeff Brown\*, Jerry Bullard\*, Elizabeth Sandoval Cantu, Luis Cavazos, Steve Chiscano, Jeff Cochran, David Courreges, General Counsel Ross Fischer\*, Diana Gomez, Pierre Grosdidier\*, August Harris, Britney Harrison, Noelle Hicks, Forrest Huddleston, Krisi Kastl, Lowell Keig, Laura Ellis Kugler\*, Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann\*, Rebecca Linehan, Caren Lock, TYLA President-elect Alyson Martinez, TYLA President Hisham Masri, Rudy Metayer, Lawrence Morales, Toni Nguyen\*, Chris Nickelson, Rosalind Perez, Chris Pineda, TYLA Immediate Past President Laura Pratt, Shannon Quadros, Amy Rod, Drew Spaniol, Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford, Alex Stelly, Jr., Radha Thiagarajan, Immediate Past President Cindy Tisdale, Aaron Tobin, President-elect Santos Vargas, Stephen Venzor, Brandy Wingate Voss\*, Jeff Weinstein, Jeff Work, Chris Wrampelmeier, Michael Wynne, Justice Evan Young\*

***Excused Absence:***

Rob Addy\*, Cade Browning, Jason Charbonnet, Craig Cherry, Kenda Culpepper\*, Matthew Hill, Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann\*, Judge Jesse McClure III\*, Judge Bill Miller\*, Chris Popov, John Sloan, Carlo Taboada, Michael Vasquez, Immediate Past Chair Kennon Lily Wooten\*

*\*Nonvoting member*

**C. Remarks from General Public**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment during the meeting. No remarks were given.

**D. Swearing-in of New Board Members**

Justice Evan Young swore in new board members, Judge Jeff Brown (Galveston) and Rebecca Linehan (Midland).

**E. Report from Executive Director Trey Apffel**

Executive Director Trey Apffel welcomed the directors to the Board of Directors Retreat, which is held every other year in July.

**F. Communications**

Lowell Brown, Communications Division Director, provided information for the Board of Directors on communications tools, the Message Map, the Dues FAQ's Flyer, and PowerPoint Presentations, which are available for all directors to utilize when speaking to local bars in their district.

**G. 1415 Lavaca Fundraising Update**

Deputy Executive Director KaLyn Laney, Executive Director Trey Apffel, and representatives from FBC Consultants, Fayruz Benyousef and Dori Flores, provided an update on the next step for the 1415 Lavaca building, which will be a capital campaign process. Executive Director Apffel gave a brief overview of the plans for the building.

## **H. Report from Chief Legal Counsel**

No report was given by Chief Legal Counsel Chris Ritter during the open session.

1. Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford recessed the open session and reconvened in closed session at 2:04 p.m. 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), *Alford v. State Bar of Texas, et. al.* (No. 4:24-CV-01679), legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca, and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s).
2. Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford reconvened the open session at 2:06 p.m.
3. During the closed session, only matters relating to 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), *Alford v. State Bar of Texas, et. al.* (No. 4:24-CV-01679), legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca. No action was taken in closed session.

## **I. Strategic Planning Overview and Group Discussions**

The directors met to discuss Strategic Planning as required by Texas Government Code Section 81.0125. The discussion was facilitated by Elizabeth Derrico of Elizabeth Derrico & Associates and the board members who serve on the Performance Measures & Strategic Planning Board Subcommittee. No action was taken regarding the Strategic Plan.

## **J. Wrap-up/Closing Remarks**

President Steve Benesh provided closing remarks.

## **K. Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford led the Board of Directors in the SBOT Mission Statement.**

## **L. There being no further business, Chair of the Board Paul K. Stafford adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.**