

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners
November 19, 2024
Boise, Idaho

Commissioner Kristin Bjorkman called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 8:35 a.m. at The Law Center, in Boise, Idaho. In addition to Commissioner Bjorkman, at the meeting were Commissioners Mary York, Judge Bob Jackson, and FJ Hahn, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Executive Director Maureen Braley, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, and Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consistent with the authority granted in Idaho Code §3-408, and under the supervisory power of the Idaho Supreme Court and acting as an agency thereof for purposes of Idaho Code §74-202(4)(a), it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Board move into a confidential session to discuss matters involving admissions and professional discipline as provided under Idaho Bar Commission Rules 223 and 521. It was also moved, seconded and passed, after an aye vote was recorded from each Commissioner, to move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(d) and (f), to: (1) review personal records of attorneys for licensing purposes; (2) consider information obtained as part of an inquiry into an individual's fitness to practice law; and (3) discuss with legal counsel.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.

2024 Resolution Process/Roadshow – The Commissioners discussed the roadshow meetings to date. They observed that the meetings and process have been smooth and the majority of lawyers in attendance support the resolutions.

Idaho Legal Aid Services Private Attorney Involvement – The Commissioners reviewed the report provided by Idaho Legal Aid Services regarding private bar involvement. The report outlines ILAS's plan to provide services to low-income individuals and families in Idaho. The Commissioners requested that a letter be sent to ILAS to confirm the bar reviewed the report and to express their appreciation for the work of ILAS.

MCLE Rules – Executive Director Maureen Braley noted that Justice Brody, chair of the Pro Bono Commission, plans to discuss allowing pro bono work to count towards the MCLE requirements at the next Pro Bono Commission meeting. The Executive Director suggested establishing a task force to review the MCLE rules and requirements in Section IV of the Idaho Bar Commission Rules. After the Pro Bono Commission meeting in January 2025, the Commissioners and staff agreed to follow up to determine how to proceed.

Northwest Bar Leaders Meeting Update – Commissioner Jackson, Diane Minnich and Maureen Braley attended the Northwest State Bar Leaders meeting in Park City Utah. They reported that

discussion items included alternative pathways to licensure and rural initiatives. Both issues are regional and national issues. How to address these issues is being considered by numerous states. At this point, the Commissioners agreed to observe and monitor the approaches, plans and progress of other states.

Meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court – The Commissioners agreed that a meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court should be scheduled in the first quarter of 2025.

Licensing Update – Diane Minnich and Maureen Braley reported on the status of the 2025 licensing process. The staff will be mailing packets at the end of the week and the online process will open early next week.

2024-25 BOC Meeting Schedule – The Executive Director reported that the UI College of Law visit has been rescheduled from January to February 21, 2025, due to a scheduling conflict for the Dean.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

September Financial Reports – The Commissioners reviewed the September 30, 2024, financial reports. As of September 30, 96.7% of revenue was collected and 73.2% of the expenses incurred.

Building Lease – The Commissioners discussed the status of the lease negotiations with the Idaho Law Foundation. Bar Counsel reported that he received an email from the Foundation stating that the ILF Board of Directors agrees that the 2024 lease rates in the current lease are acceptable. The ILF Board was agreeable to the lease amendments proposed by the Commissioners and wants to discuss a few additional proposed changes before a final approval vote.

The Commissioners were provided with information on the current full-service lease rates for downtown Boise and the current occupancy rate, the rate with the 2% escalator, and the estimated occupancy rates for the next five years. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the lease rate at \$21.94 for the first and second floors and \$12.80 for the basement and current occupancy rate of \$82,928 and current escalator of 2%. Bar Counsel agreed to set up a meeting with the Foundation leadership to negotiate the lease.

Bank Account Changes – The Commissioners considered two issues related to changing the signers on bank accounts from former Executive Director Diane Minnich to the new Executive Director Maureen Braley. It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize Key Bank to remove as Idaho State Bar check signers from KeyBank account ***4036*** Bradley G. Andrews and Molly O’Leary. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the banking resolution as amended, changing the language from “this state” to “State of Idaho” in the document and adding Executive Director to the signature line.

Executive Director Transition Update – The Executive Director provided information to the Commissioners regarding the status of the transition to the new Executive Director; including a memo to the Commissioners, a transition to-do checklist, and an email she provided to the staff regarding the process of transitioning the Executive Director position. She also reported that she

is interviewing candidates for the Admissions/MCLE Director this week and hopes to decide by the end of the week.

MEMBER SERVICES

Anniversary Celebration Committee –The Executive Director and former Executive Director reported on the November 18th meeting of the Anniversary Celebration Committee. The Committee is working on historical articles for the Advocate, the Tent to Towers publication describing, in words and pictures, the history of the Idaho legal profession, the anniversary dinner honoring the anniversaries, the distinguished lawyer, and outstanding young lawyer scheduled for summer of 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director