

**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES**  
**Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners**  
**February 21, 2025**  
**Boise, Idaho**

President Mary York called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 11:30 a.m. MT at The Law Center in Boise, Idaho. Commissioners Jillian Caires, Kristin Bjorkman, Mary York, Judge Bob Jackson, and FJ Hahn; Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, Admissions and MCLE Director Abby Kostecka, Communications Director Lindsey Welfley and Executive Director Maureen Ryan Braley, who acted as secretary, were in attendance.

**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 pending and/or potential litigation.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Minutes** – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting.

**Meeting with the University of Idaho College of Law** – The Commissioners discussed the meeting they had earlier that morning with the University of Idaho College of Law. The Commissioners discussed ensuring that the College of Law is notified about opportunities for its students to be involved in ISB events. The Commissioners discussed the Dean's concerns about discontinuing administration of the July bar exam in Moscow.

**Administration of Idaho Bar Exam in Moscow** – The Commissioners addressed the added costs and strain on staff resources to give the July bar exam in two locations and the small number of test takers in Moscow. The Commissioners discussed Idaho's adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam commencing in July 2026 and the additional complexities of giving a new, computer-based bar exam. Some Commissioners expressed concerns about not giving the exam in Moscow and acknowledged the Dean's concerns. Ms. Braley reported that she discussed the issue with Chief Justice Bevan, who indicated that the Court supported the Bar's decision to cease administering the exam in Moscow. It was moved, seconded, and passed to administer the Idaho July bar exam

in one location, commencing with the July 2026 bar exam. One Commissioner voted against the motion.

**2024 Resolution Process Update** – Ms. Braley reported that the Idaho Supreme Court approved the results of the 2024 Resolution process.

**2025 Legislation Update** – Ms. Braley reported that the Senate approved amendments to Senate Bill 1030 to correct errors that the Legislative Services Office made when the bill was printed. She reported that the bill will be heard on the Senate floor within the next few days. She reported that she is working on the process to have the bill presented in the House Judiciary and Rules Committee if/when the bill passes the Senate.

**2025 District Bar Officer Elections** – Ms. Braley updated the Commissioners on the status of 2025 District Bar Officer Elections. Elections will be completed by April 1, 2025.

**2025 Bar Commissioner Elections** – The terms of President Mary York and Past President Jillian Caires expire in July. Elections will be held this spring to elect new Commissioners from the Second and Fourth Districts. The elections conclude on May 6, 2025.

**2025 Professionalism Awards** – The Commissioners are scheduled to select Professionalism Award recipients at their April 2025 meeting. Ms. Braley requested that the Commissioners contact her with any nominations. The Commissioners discussed the importance of giving awards to Bar members in each district.

**Idaho Code Commission Appointment** – The Commissioners considered the three applicants for the Idaho Code Commission position held by Andrew Doman, whose term expired on December 1, 2024. It was moved, seconded and passed to nominate R. Jonathan Shirts to the Governor for appointment to the Idaho Code Commission.

**Status Transfer – Mary McDougal** – The Commissioners discussed Ms. McDougal's completion of 15 CLE credits, completion of the character and fitness review, and the supplemental information she provided related to her experience practicing law. The Board discussed its discretion under I.B.C.R. 306 and its precedent related to status transfer requests. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve her transfer to Active status.

**Status Transfer – Robert Nelson** – The Commissioners discussed Mr. Nelson's experience practicing law in Washington and recent completion of CLE programs. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve his transfer to Active status.

**2025 Licensing Update** – Ms. Braley reported on the status of 2025 licensing payments to date.

**Board Meeting and Event Schedule** – The Commissioners reviewed the schedule and discussed attendance at upcoming conferences.

**Fee Arbitration Presentation** – At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners were joined by Karen Carlisle, Clerk of the Idaho State Bar's Fee Arbitration service and the Professional Conduct Board, and

volunteer mediator/arbitrator attorneys Andrew Chasan and Sandra Clapp. Ms. Carlisle provided an overview and statistics related to the fee arbitration process. She encouraged the Commissioners to recruit volunteer fee arbitrators. Ms. Clapp and Mr. Chasan described their experiences serving as mediators and arbitrators. The Commissioners discussed conducting an orientation for new volunteers and recruiting new volunteers via the e-bulletin.

**November & December 2024 Financials** – The Commissioners discussed the November and December 2024 financials.

**Advocate Schedule** – Lindsey Welfley provided the Advocate article schedule to the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ryan Braley  
Executive Director