

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
January 13, 2020
Boise, Idaho

President Mike Oths called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 8:40 a.m. at the Law Center in Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners David Kerrick, Donald Carey, Kurt Holzer and Anne-Marie Fulfer, Bar Counsel Brad Andrews, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, and Executive Director 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 pending and/or potential litigation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting as submitted.

Concordia University School of Law Visit – The Commissioners reviewed the agenda for the visit to Concordia Law School scheduled for later in the day.

University of Idaho College of Law Visit Letter – The Commissioners reviewed the letter to UI about reporting on the 2019 visit to the College of Law

Admissions; Bar Exam State Specific Questions – The Commissioners were provided with information about how jurisdictions address state specific legal topics in the advent of the Uniform Bar Exam. Associate Director Maureen Braley explained that although the chart prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners published in the Bar Examiner magazine notes that Idaho does not have a state specific component, Idaho does. The Idaho specific legal topics are addressed by CLE requirements completed after admission.

Meeting with Idaho Supreme Court – The Commissioners discussed scheduling a meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court, hosted by the bar, preferably in conjunction with the February meeting, or the May meeting. Due to a conflict, the Commissioners rescheduled the May meeting to May 14.

Jackrabbit Bar meeting – The Commissioners briefly discussed the schedule and potential program ideas for the June Jackrabbit Bar meeting. President Oths noted that the ABA president or her designee should be invited.

2020 Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners were provided with the 2020 meetings and events schedule.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the November 30 financial reports. At the end of November, 103.5% was collected and 92.1% of expenses incurred.

2020 Budget – Controller Debbie Dudley reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the budget as presented. At the request of Bar Counsel, the Commissioners agreed to include the indirect costs associated with processing Client Assistance Fund claims as an expense to the fund. Bar Counsel reported that the lease agreement between the Bar and Foundation was finalized.

Audit Engagement – The Commissioners reviewed the auditor’s engagement letter and the memo prepared by Bar Counsel and the Associate Director outlined their concerns about provisions in the letter. The Commissioners agreed with the recommendation of Bar Counsel and authorized negotiation with the auditing firm to amend the letter.

MEMBER SERVICES

2020 Annual Meeting – The Commissioners reviewed initial information regarding the 2020 Annual Meeting. Program and Legal Education Director Baker proposed a keynote speaker, Walter Echo-Hawk, a tribal judge and author. The Commissioners agreed Mr. Echohawk would be a good choice.

Future Annual Meetings – This topic was deferred to the next meeting.

Rural Initiatives – The Commissioners agreed to include this topic on ISC meeting agenda. They discussed general ideas and how to generate support for ideas, such as providing a list to the sections and DBA’s requesting support. Commissioner Fulfer noted there may be a pilot program in the 2nd District.

Concordia University School of Law visit –At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners met with students, then faculty and administration at Concordia Law School.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/NEWS CLIPPINGS

Letters and news clippings for the past month were provided in PDF format to the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director