

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
May 14, 2020
Boise, Idaho

President David Kerrick called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The following were in attendance at the Law Center; Commissioner Michael Oths, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary. In addition to President Kerrick, in attendance remotely were Commissioners, Donald Carey, Kurt Holzer and Anne-Marie Fulfer, Bar Counsel Brad Andrews, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, and Assistant Bar Counsel Caralee Lambert.

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 April 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting as submitted.

BOC Election Update – The Commissioners were provided with the results of the 2020 Board of Commissioners election; Kristin Bjorkman Dunn was elected to represent the Fourth District and Laird Stone was elected to represent the Third and Fifth Districts.

Admissions/Bar Exam - The Associate Director reported that Chief Justice Burdick swore in the February successful bar exam applicants on May 7. She noted only a few of the applicants were unable to attend on May 7.

The Commissioners discussed the administration of the July bar exam. The plan is still to administer the July 2020 Idaho bar exam as scheduled. The Associate Director discussed plans to administer the test in small groups in multiple locations, following the applicable protocols and guidelines.

Stay at Home Order; Services to Bar Members and the Public – The Executive Director reported on the status of office operations and services under the current stay at home order.

2020 Professional Awards – The Commissioner selected the following award recipients:
Distinguished Lawyers; Gary Cooper, Pocatello and Maureen Laflin, Moscow

Distinguished Jurist; Hon. Jim Jones, Boise
Outstanding Young Lawyer; Jennifer Jensen, Boise

Service Awards

Ingrid Batey, Caldwell
Jennifer Brumley, CDA
Nance Ceccarelli, Lewiston
Matt Christensen, Boise
Susan Eastlake (nl), Boise
Pamela Howland, Boise
Christopher Pooser, Boise
Julie Stomper, Idaho Falls
T. Matt Wolfe, Boise

Professionalism Awards

1st –Allan Wasserman, Coeur d’Alene
2nd –Thomas Callery, Lewiston
3rd – Hon. Thomas Sullivan, Caldwell
4th – Steve Millemann, McCall
4th – Jodi Nafzger, Boise
4th – Robert Lewis, Boise
5th – Thomas Robertson, Twin Falls
6th – Amy Cunningham, Pocatello
7th – John Michael Ohman, Idaho Falls

Pro Bono Awards

1st – Katherine Coyle, Coeur d’Alene
2nd – Catherine M. Mabbutt, Moscow
3rd – J.J. Winters, Caldwell
4th – Wendy Olson, Boise
4th – Elijah Watkins, Boise
4th – Whitney Welsh, Boise
5th – Jonas Reagan, Twin Falls
6th – John Bulger, Pocatello
7th – Tracy Gorman, Idaho Falls

Section of the Year; Appellate Practice Section

Jackrabbit Bar Meeting – Chancellor Oths and the Executive Director reported that they decided to cancel the 2020 Jackrabbit Bar Meeting, scheduled in June. The plan is to reschedule it in Idaho in 2021. Commissioner Oths will remain the Chancellor and the sacred beast will remain in the bar office.

Professional Conduct Board Members – The staff noted that volunteers are needed to serve as members of the Professional Conduct Board, both lawyers and nonlawyers. Specifically, from the districts outside of the 4th District.

February 2020 Bar Exam Results – The Commissioners were provided with a letter to the Court reporting the February 2020 bar exam results.

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 April 2020 financial reports. At the end of April, 85.7% was collected and 30.5% of expenses incurred. Commissioner Oths asked if the staff was receiving the District Bar Association bank statements. The Executive Director stated she would check and report back to the Commissioners.

2019 Audit Report – The Commissioners were joined by the Eide Bailly auditors who provided the report on the 2019 audited financials. The auditors reviewed the audit report and stated that the bar, once again, received a clean audit. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the 2019 Audited Financial Report.

MEMBER SERVICES

2020 Annual Meeting – The Commissioners reviewed a memo from staff discussing options for the 2020 Annual Meeting. The Commissioners agreed to cancel the event at Fort Hall. Any annual meeting events will be held in Boise, focusing on the CLE programs, which can be webcast. The Commissioners requested the staff prepare a proposal for a small outdoor event to honor award recipients. The Commissioners agreed that a special awards edition of The Advocate was appropriate.

Creditors Rights Section Request – The Commissioners considered a petition to establish a Creditors Rights Section of the Idaho State Bar. The Commissioners requested the section organizers first discuss their needs and interests with the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. No action was taken on the petition.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/NEWS CLIPPINGS

The Commissioners were provided with Supreme Court orders, letters, and news clippings for the past month.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director