

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
May 14, 2021
Boise, Idaho

President Don Carey 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 in the classroom of the Law Center. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Anne-Marie Fulfer, Kurt Holzer, Kristin Bjorkman Dunn, Laird Stone, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Bar Counsel Brad Andrews, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting as submitted.

Meeting with Idaho Supreme Court – At 9:00 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by the Idaho Supreme Court Justices and the Administrative Director of the Courts. The agenda included a legislative update, the July bar exam and admission ceremonies, CCI-COSCA conference, Pro Bono Commission/Access to Justice, 2021 Annual Meeting, rural initiative plan, the Idaho Judicial Council, and future meetings. The group agreed that a rural initiative is important, probably on a 3–5-year plan. The first step would be a group to initiate the discussion, discuss needs with the public and rural lawyers; is there a need for more lawyers? It was suggested that the pro bono commission might have information about the need. The group discussed the upcoming district judge appointment to the Idaho Judicial Council. Justice Burdick emphasized the importance of screening candidates. He noted that important qualities for the position are believable, charisma, communication, respect by judges, and the courage to talk with other judges about issues. The Court reported that a Communications director was recently hired. A focus of the position will be civics education. The Bar Commissioners noted that a decision as to whether the July bar exam should be given online or in person. The Court expressed its preference to give the bar exam in person.

Letter of thanks to Dean Jerry Long – The Executive Director reported that she and Commissioner Fulfer are still finalizing the thank you letter to the Dean.

Jackrabbit Bar Meeting – The Executive Director reported that the Jackrabbit Bar Meeting has been scheduled for September 23-25, 2021, in Idaho Falls.

BOC Election – The Commissioners were provided with the 2021 Election Canvass; Gary Cooper was elected to represent the 6th and 7th Districts.

February 2021 Bar Examination – The Commissioners were provided the results and statistics for the February bar exam.

July Bar Examination – The Associate Director provide a memo outlining the options for the July bar exam. The exam is offered both online and in person. Each jurisdiction must select one

of the two options. After discussion with the Idaho Supreme Court justices and among the Commissioners, the consensus of the Commissioners is to administer the July bar exam in person.

2021 Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners were provided with the 2021 meetings and events schedule.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the April 2021 financial report. At the end of April, 85.7% was collected and 31% of expenses January incurred.

2020 Audited Financials – Auditor Kristin Digg and Controller Debbie Dudley joined the meeting. Ms. Dig briefly reviewed the 2020 audited financials report. She reported the Idaho State Bar received a clean opinion, no material deficiencies, or weaknesses were found. Ms. Diggs did note that a few investments were not within the percentages specified in the Investment Policy. The Commissioners requested the Investment policy be provided to Board at the next meeting.

ABA Board of Governors Expenses– The Executive Director requested this issue be moved to the next meeting agenda.

MEMBER SERVICES

Annual Meeting – The Commissioners were provided the Annual Meeting scheduled. They reviewed the schedule and programs.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/NEWS CLIPPINGS

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

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.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director