

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
October 6, 2022
Boise, Idaho

President Kristin Bjorkman Dunn called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Law Center, Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Gary Cooper, Laird Stone, Jillian Caires and Mary York, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Associate Director Maureen Braley and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary. Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker attended part of the meeting.

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 §74-101819206(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

District Bar Presidents – The Commissioners were joined by the following District Bar Association Presidents: 1st – Casey Simmons, 2nd – Brennan Wright, 4th – Jim Cook, 5th – Linda Wells, 6th – Jared Steadman, and 7th – Hyrum Erickson. The group was provided with information about how to comply with the open meeting laws. The group then discussed the resolution process, specifically the proposed agendas, award recipients, and time frames.

Strategic Planning Session – The Commissioners and staff participated in a strategic planning exercise, facilitated by Chris Newbold, ALPS. The Commissioners discussed goals and objectives critical to the bar for the next two years. Mr. Newbold agreed to synthesize the discussion and prepare a report outlining two strategic goals and a pathway to achieve the goals.

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting as submitted.

2022 Resolution Process – The Commissioners discussed topics for discussion at the resolution meetings. The Commissioners agreed to include a report on the work of the taskforce on the Judicial Council and a general overview of bar activities.

Meeting with Idaho Supreme Court – The Executive Director reported she contacted the Idaho Supreme Court to set up a meeting with the court this fall.

Second District Magistrate Commission Appointment – It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint the Second District Bar nominee, Wynn R. Mosman, to the Second District Magistrate Commission.

Diversity Section/Law School Diversity Proposal – The Commissioners were joined by Diversity Section Chair Leon Samuels and Jen Dempsey to discuss the Diversity Section proposal. The section included the following potential initiatives in their presentation: ISB appoint an individual or taskforce to receive reports of bullying and harassment based on bias/discrimination and provide mentorship and guidance for addressing these issues; require training on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at the New Lawyers' CLE; establish a fellowship program for underrepresented groups to attend the Annual Meeting; adopt a mission statement/goal regarding DEI. The group discussed topics and ideas on how to consider and implement diversity and inclusion initiatives.

The Commissioners discussed a proposal from UI College of Law to create a nonprofit Council on Diversity in Law School. The Commissioners agreed that they generally supported the proposal. President Bjorkman agreed to contact the Dean to discuss the proposal in more detail to determine time frames and additional specifics.

Contested Judicial Election Survey – The Executive Director reported that the Idaho Supreme Court will no longer assist with the dissemination of the surveys to bar members for a contested judicial election. The staff plans to research options for continuing to survey bar members. For the November election, a second survey in the Second District contested judicial election will not be done. The time frame is too short to find another option to implement the survey.

July Bar Exam Update– Associate Director Maureen Braley reported on the July Bar Exam results.

2022-23 BOC Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners were provided with the schedule of meetings and events for the end of 2022 and 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the July 31 financial reports. At the end of July, 86.6% was collected and 68.9% of expenses incurred.

Office Security – The Executive Director reported on office security issues and changes made to improve security. One option being discussed is whether to lock the front doors and install an intercom system to enter the building. Providing continued access to lawyers would be a priority. The Executive Director requested input on limiting access to the building. The Commissioners agreed that security is critical and limiting access to the building is acceptable.

MEMBER SERVICES

2024 and 2025 Annual Meetings – The Commissioners were provided with recommendations from Teresa Baker for Annual Meeting locations in 2024 and 2025. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve 2024 Annual Meeting in Boise, and the 2025 Annual Meeting in Coeur d'Alene.

Attorney Well-Being Task Force Report – The Commissioners were joined by Julie Stomper, Chair of the Task Force. She presented the report on behalf of the taskforce. The task force was formed in 2020 to review and recommend efforts to improve the well-being of lawyers. The report included several recommendations for consideration. Due to time limitations, the Commissioners agreed to discuss the taskforce report and recommendations at a future meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director