

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
April 12, 2024
Pocatello, Idaho

President Gary Cooper called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, in Pocatello, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Judge Jackson, Kristin Bjorkman, Jillian Caires and Mary York, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Associate Director Maureen Braley, 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.

BOC Election Update – The Executive Director reported there are two candidates running for Bar Commissioner from the 7th District, F.J. Hahn and Justin Oleson. The electronic ballot will be mailed on April 22, 2024, and the election closes on May 7, 2024.

Legislative Update – The Commissioners were provided with House Bill 746, which increased judicial salaries and allows that certain judges are eligible to receive a bonus upon retirement.

2024 Professional Awards – The Commissioners reviewed the nominations for the 2024 award recipients. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed to select the following individuals for 2024 awards:

Distinguished lawyers: Anne Solomon and John Bailey

Distinguished Jurist: Hon. Mitchell Brown

Outstanding Young Lawyer – Hannah Andazola

Professionalism: 1st – Ben Allen, 2nd – April Smith, 3rd – Elisa Massoth, 4th – Leslie Hayes and Kevin Scanlon, 5th – Jennifer Brizee, 6th – JD Oborn, and 7th – Steve Parry

Service – Hon. Joseph W. Borton, Justice Robyn M. Brody, Jim Cook, Anne Haws, Bron M.

Rammell, Jeremy C. Rausch, Benjamin C. Ritchie, Tyrie J. Strong, Judge Mayli A. Walsh, and Gordon Holland (nl)

Pro Bono – 1st – Ryan S. Hunter, 2nd – Kari E. Miller, 3rd – Aaron L. Seable, 4th – Donald Jageman, Zachary J. McCraney, and Ian K. Frost, 5th – Anja R. Rodriguez, 6th – Jason D. Stanley, 7th – Paul B. Rippel

Section of the Year – Tax, Probate and Trust Law Section

Strategic Plan Updates – The Commissioners made a few additional changes to the strategic goals.

Magistrate Commission Appointments – The Commissioners considered two appointments to the district magistrate commissions. In the First District, Tara Malek resigned from the Commission. The District Bar officers nominated Craig Zanetti to replace Tara Malek. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Craig Zanetti to the First District Magistrate Commission to complete the term of Tara Malek.

In the Fifth District, current magistrate commission member Melissa Kippes recused herself from participating in the upcoming selection process. The Fifth District Bar officers nominated Kara Gleckler to serve as a temporary replacement for Melissa Kippes. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Kara Gleckler as a temporary replacement for Melissa Kippes on the 5th District Magistrate Commission.

ABA Meeting Report – Idaho ABA Delegate Jen Jensen joined the meeting to report on the ABA Midyear Meeting of the ABA House of Delegates. She noted two items: ABA membership dues continue to be a discussion item as well as issues regarding law school accreditation rules.

2024 District Bar Officer Election – The Commissioners were provided with the list of newly elected District Bar officers. She noted that the Third District election was not yet concluded. Commissioner Jackson is recruiting volunteers to run for officer positions. The election will be held soon.

Licensing/Bar Exam – The Commissioners were provided with updates on 2024 license renewals: over 82% completed the process online, compared to 78% in 2023. Associate Director Maureen Braley reported on the February bar exam: 41 applicants sat for the exam, about 10% less due to the new rule allowing practicing attorneys from any state that meet the admission requirements to be admitted.

Bar Counsel/ED Performance Review Process – The Commissioners and staff discussed the yearly performance review of the two positions. The Commissioners requested a report from Bar Counsel and the ED along with historical salary information and the compensation survey report for the two positions for the May 17, 2024 meeting.

Western States/BLI Meetings Report – Commissioners York and Bjorkman reported on the Western States Bar Conference. Commissioners Caires and Jackson reported on the Bar Leadership Institute.

The Commissioners requested that staff set up a meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court.

2023-24 BOC Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners reviewed the 2024 meeting and event schedule. It was suggested that the October 4, 2024 meeting be held in Moscow in conjunction with UI homecoming.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

December 2023 Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the December 31, 2023, financial reports. As of December 31, 2023, 102.8% of the revenue was collected and 100.9% of the expenses incurred.

Bank Resolution – The Executive Director provided a proposed bank resolution for consideration by the Commissioners. Some of the banks require a resolution from the Board authorizing signature changes on accounts. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the bank resolution as presented.

MEMBER SERVICES

Advocate Articles – The Commissioners requested that the Communications Director share Commissioners' topics for articles with other Commissioners as she receives them.

Anniversary Celebration – The Commissioners were provided with the notes from the first meeting of the ISB/ILF Anniversary Celebration Committee, held on March 25, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024.

Electronic Communications Policy – The Commissioners were provided with the proposed updated Electronic Communications Policy, which incorporates social media policies. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Electronic Communications Policy as presented.

Annual Meeting Update – The Commissioners reviewed the proposed schedule for the 2024 Annual Meeting, scheduled for July 17-19 in Boise.

Podcast Proposal – The Commissioners were provided with a proposal from Jamie Shropshire to record podcasts on Bar programs and activities. The Commissioners recommended Jamie be asked to assist with anniversary celebration interviews. They also agreed to set a time for Jaime to meet with the Board in May.

Letters, reports, and news clippings for the past month were provided to the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 1:50 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director