

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners
April 11, 2025
Boise, Idaho

President Mary York called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 9:00 a.m. PST at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Commissioners Jillian Caires, Kristin Bjorkman, Mary York, Judge Bob Jackson, and FJ Hahn; Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, Licensing Director Abby Kostecka, Communications Director Lindsey Welfley, and Executive Director Maureen Ryan Braley, who acted as secretary, were in attendance.

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)(b), (d) and (f), to: (1) consider a complaint brought against an employee; (2) review personal records of attorneys for licensing purposes; (3) consider information obtained as part of an inquiry into an individual's fitness to practice law; and (4) discuss with legal counsel pending and/or potential litigation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting.

Follow-up from Meeting with Idaho Supreme Court on 3/28/25 – The Commissioners discussed the meeting they had with the Idaho Supreme Court on March 28, 2025. The Commissioners reviewed the discussion related to publication of discipline Orders on the ISB website, the scope of the resolution process, and engagement with the legislature.

2025 Legislation Update – Ms. Braley reported Governor Little signed Senate Bill 1030 pertaining to attorney license fees into law on March 19, 2025. The ISB requested that the Court issue an Order amending Idaho Bar Commission Rule 304 consistent with the amended statute. The Court has not issued an Order amending the IBCR yet.

Orders and Statements Re: Rule of Law and Legal Profession – The Commissioners reviewed information related to recent Executive Orders and statements issued by the ABA and other state bars. The Commissioners discussed whether issuing a statement would be considered political speech and the risks involved in making a statement. The Commissioners discussed the Idaho State Bar's statutory mission and attorneys' obligations under the Idaho Rules of Professional

Conduct. The Commissioners discussed issuing a statement as Commissioners and not on behalf of individual members of the Idaho State Bar. The Commissioners noted that issuing a statement on behalf of all Bar members would require a resolution under I.B.C.R. 906. The Commissioners discussed issuing a statement in conjunction with and in support of Law Day, May 1. Commissioner York volunteered to draft the statement. It was moved, seconded and passed to hold a special meeting at the end of April to review and approve a Commissioners' statement to be published on Law Day.

2025 District Bar Officer Elections - Ms. Braley updated the Commissioners on the results of the 2025 District Bar Officer elections.

2025 Bar Commissioner Elections – Ms. Braley updated the Commissioners on the timeline for the 2025 Bar Commissioner elections for new Commissioners representing the First and Second Districts and the Fourth District.

Petition for Formation of Technology and Practice Management Section – The Commissioners considered the petition filed by 27 Bar members to form a new practice section – the Technology and Practice Management Section. The Commissioners considered Section XI of the I.B.C.R. addressing practice sections and precedent for approving or rejecting formation of a new section. The Commissioners were concerned that this new section would overlap with the efforts of other sections. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the formation of the Technology and Practice Management Section. The Commissioners discussed I.B.C.R. 1109 relating to the Commissioners' conducting an annual review of the activity of each practice section within 60 days of the annual meeting. The Commissioners asked Ms. Baker to provide a report of Section activities annually at their September meetings.

MCLE Task Force – The Commissioners discussed appointing an MCLE Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of Section IV of the I.B.C.R. and consider whether to recommend amendments to the rules. The Commissioners discussed accrediting more activities like judging mock trial competitions and bar exam grading, the overall credit requirement, and other technical and administrative improvements to the rules. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to form an MCLE Task Force, to appoint 5-7 attorneys to serve on the Task Force, including Teresa Baker, Jim Spinner, Melissa Ramirez Kilmer. The ISB will fill the remaining positions on the Task Force by publishing notice of the opportunity and selecting 2-3 more members from those who express interest.

Staffing Update – Ms. Braley updated the Commissioners on the hiring of Jessica Kline as Bar Counsel Legal Assistant, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland's retirement at the end of July 2025, and the restructuring of the licensing department.

Licensing and Bar Exam Update – Ms. Braley provided an oral report on 2025 licensing and the February 2025 bar exam.

ISB/ILF Anniversary Update – Ms. Welfley reported on publication of Tents to Towers. Ms. Baker reported on the Anniversary Gala scheduled for July 16, 2025, and the joint event with the judiciary scheduled for September 9, 2025.

Bar Counsel and Executive Director Performance Review Process – The Commissioners discussed the timing and process for Bar Counsel’s and the Executive Director’s annual performance reviews. The Commissioners determined to conduct Bar Counsel’s and the Executive Director’s annual performance reviews during their July 15, 2025, meeting.

2025 BOC Meeting and Event Schedule – The Commissioners discussed the timing of their next meeting scheduled for May 16, 2025. Due to Ms. Braley’s personal conflict with that date, the Commissioners approved rescheduling the meeting to May 29, 2025.

January and February 2025 Financials – The Commissioners discussed the January and February 2025 financials.

Clifton Larson Allen Engagement – The Commissioners discussed engaging Clifton Larson Allen (“CLA”) to provide accounting support to the ISB. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to engage CLA to provide accounting support to the ISB.

Quarterly Communications Report – Ms. Welfley reported on the communications work performed during the last quarter.

Idaho State Bar Professional Awards – The Commissioners discussed nominations for the ISB Distinguished Lawyer, Distinguished Jurist, Outstanding Young Lawyer, Professionalism, Pro Bono, Service, and Section of the Year awards. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to select the following individuals to receive the 2025 awards:

Distinguished Lawyer – Tim Gresback and Chuck Homer

Distinguished Jurist – Justice Cynthia K. C. Meyer

Outstanding Young Lawyer – Alexandra Hodson

Service Awards – Judge Debora K. Grasham, Diane Minnich, William K. Fletcher, Taylor Mossman-Fletcher, Amanda Ulrich, Fonda Jovick, and Kenneth C. Howell

Professionalism Awards – Megan S. O’Dowd, Scott Chapman, Judge Thomas W. Whitney, Richard C. Mellon Jr., Josh D. Hurwit, Laird B. Stone, Judge Rick Carnaroli, and Julie Stomper

Denise O’ Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards – Heath B. Wells, Angela C. Sasser, Clay Gill, Bruce Castelton, and David M. Taylor

Section of the Year – Idaho Legal History Section

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ryan Braley
Executive Director