

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners
April 3, 2026
Boise, Idaho

President, Hon. Robert Jackson, called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar (“the Board”) to order at 9:15 a.m. MST at the Hyatt Place in downtown Boise, Idaho. In attendance at that time were Commissioners, Hon. Robert Jackson, Kristin Bjorkman, F.J. Hahn, Patty Weeks, and Leslie Hayes, as well as Executive Director, Maureen Ryan Braley, who acted as secretary. Bar Counsel, Joe Pirtle; Assistant Bar Counsel, Samantha Lundberg; Deputy Director, Jared Hoskins; and Program and Legal Education Director, Teresa Baker, also attended the meeting.

GENERAL SESSION

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the General Session minutes of the Board meeting on February 18, 2026.

Transfer to Active Status – Mr. Pirtle discussed a request from Ms. Kathryn Ivers to transfer from Inactive to Active status after having been Inactive for approximately 12 years and having not actively practiced in 20 years. Mr. Pirtle discussed the requirements of IBCR 306. Mr. Pirtle referenced a memorandum from Annette Strauser addressing Ms. Ivers’s license history and the Board’s function under IBCR 306. Mr. Pirtle discussed the options the Board may take, including requiring Ms. Ivers to retake the bar examination. Commissioners discussed whether she is required to re-apply for admission under IBCR 306(a)(3) given the length of time that has elapsed since her active practice of law. The Board determined that IBCR 306(a)(3) applies. Ms. Braley will follow-up with Annette Strauser and Ms. Ivers.

Recent Changes to the Servicemember Civil Relief Act – Ms. Lundberg discussed her prepared memo addressing recent changes to the federal Servicemember Civil Relief Act that impact attorney licensing. Ms. Lundberg discussed options the Board may take, including amending IBCR 206 or 229 to bring Idaho law into conformance with the new federal law. Mr. Pirtle referenced IBCR 906(a) and the Board’s ability to make technical corrections, as well as IBCR 906(l) and the Board’s ability to submit time-sensitive questions for a vote. The Commissioners stated they do not believe Bar members should vote merely to conform Idaho law to federal law. The Board determined to discuss the matter with the Idaho Supreme Court at its upcoming meeting on April 27, 2026, and to consider whether the conformance could be addressed outside the resolution process.

Contested Judicial Election Surveys – Mr. Hoskins referenced his memo addressing the Idaho State Bar’s history of facilitating Bar member surveys related to contested judicial elections and framed the issue before the Board as whether the Idaho State Bar (“ISB”) should conduct a survey of Bar members regarding their opinions of candidates for district judge in the four upcoming contested judicial elections. Mr. Hoskins recounted the history of past surveys and that they were conducted with the help and participation of the ISC for every contested judicial election from 2006 through May of 2022, at which time the ISC notified the ISB that it would no longer assist

with the survey due to concerns about the appearance of impartiality, the anonymity of survey responses, and the applicability of public records law. Mr. Hoskins detailed further concerns about the statistical validity of the survey, given the historical lack of participation. Mr. Hoskins noted that, from an inferential statistics standpoint, there is a minimum sample size necessary to draw conclusions about a population. Ms. Braley and Mr. Pirtle also expressed concerns about the survey and the perception of the ISB's involvement, regardless of the results of the survey. Commissioners expressed concern about the public's lack of access to information regarding judicial candidates and stated they believe ISB members have unique insight into judicial candidates' qualifications. The Board determined that Ms. Braley should seek guidance from the Chief Justice and heed his advice. If she is unable to obtain clear guidance from the Chief Justice on whether to proceed with the survey, she will follow-up with the Board.

2026 Annual Meeting – Schedule and CLE Descriptions – Ms. Baker referenced her 2026 Annual Meeting schedule and CLE information document. Ms. Baker noted that she is working to identify sponsors and that registration opened on April 1, 2026. Ms. Baker discussed the proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting and a potential change to the schedule to address a scheduling conflict between two CLE sessions. Ms. Baker mentioned that sponsorships are lagging compared to expectations. Commissioners discussed some other potential sponsorships.

Member Benefit Provider Approval – Ms. Baker addressed some previous questions about health insurance benefits and whether a particular provider is licensed to do business in Idaho and whether physicians accept their coverage. Commissioners asked Ms. Baker to contact the Nebraska Bar regarding the health insurance benefits it offers its members and about the possibility of royalties.

Advocate Commissioner Article Schedule – Ms. Braley noted that Communications Manager, Carissa Carns, prepared the current article schedule.

Proposed Regulation Related to Review of Bar Complaints Against Department of Justice Attorneys – Mr. Pirtle reported on a proposed Department of Justice Regulation that would impact a state's disciplinary investigation of an attorney employed by the Department of Justice. He mentioned that a number of trade groups, including the Conference of Chief Justices, have offered opinions and responses against the proposed regulation.

Idaho Supreme Court Artificial Intelligence Committee – Mr. Hoskins reported on the ISC's potential establishment of a standing committee on artificial intelligence ("AI") governance, noting that he had worked with Jim Cook from the ISC's Administrative Office of the Courts, on a proposed court order creating the committee and prescribing its charge. Mr. Hoskins stated that the potential creation of a standing committee signals an escalation of the ISC's AI governance efforts, in that it represents a pivot toward regulating the use of generative AI in the courts by attorneys and self-represented litigants, rather than just by judges and court staff. Mr. Hoskins noted that the ISB's Executive Director, or her designee, will be a standing member of the committee if it is created.

Meeting with Idaho ABA Delegates – Judge Oths, Jonathan Shirts, and Kendall Bjornsen, the Idaho Delegates to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates, joined the meeting

to provide an update on ABA matters. Judge Oths discussed the schedule of the ABA and his encouragement that Bar members consider getting involved with the ABA. Delegates discussed ABA resolutions, including one regarding Rule 1.14 and clients with disabilities and limitations, and recommended the ISB consider a resolution to adopt changes to the rule. Commissioners mentioned adding the topic to the upcoming discussion with the ISC. Delegates mentioned an ABA resolution regarding threats on judicial officers and their families. Delegates discussed further resolutions, including one promoting practice readiness programs; guidelines for implementation of the NextGen Bar Examination; encouraging competence in the area of generative AI; and increasing or promoting access to lawyer referral services.

Annual Meeting with Idaho Supreme Court – Mr. Hoskins reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming meeting with the ISC on Monday, April 27, at 11:30 a.m., and referenced a change to the agenda that is attached to the calendar invite, namely, that it was updated to reflect “TBD” for the Bellwood lecture in the Fall. Mr. Hoskins also noted that the Commissioners could address additional items during the Open Forum portion of the meeting.

2026 Idaho Legislative Session – Ms. Braley reported that the ISB has adopted a new process of closely and comprehensively reviewing all proposed legislation each legislative session and introduced Mr. Hoskins’s methodology. Mr. Hoskins reported that the Legislature had adjourned sine die on April 2, 2026, without passing any legislation aimed at the ISB but that there were several bills that affect substantive areas of law in common practice areas. Mr. Hoskins reported that, as of April 1, he had reviewed 809 bills. Of that total number, Mr. Hoskins ultimately tracked 81 bills that could impact the ISB directly or indirectly. He noted that only 39 of those bills made any progress and that only 13 of them have become law. Ms. Braley also reported that she, Mr. Hoskins, and Ms. Baker recently met with Senator Lakey, and that they intend to meet with Representative Skaug in the coming weeks.

Admissions Report – Ms. Braley gave an oral report on the February 2026 Idaho Bar Exam and the July 2026 NextGen bar exam. Ms. Lundberg reported on her recent presentation to law students at the University of Idaho College of Law campus in Moscow.

MCLE Task Force Update – Mr. Hoskins reported on the MCLE Task Force’s progress, noting that the group has identified where there is consensus. Mr. Hoskins described how the group agreed to table two topics during this round of reforms, namely, changes to the reporting period under IBCR 402(b) and changes to the New Admittee Education Requirement under IBCR 402(f). Mr. Hoskins reported that the group does not have consensus on the notion of increasing the minimum credit hours required under IBCR 402(a). There is consensus regarding expanding accredited activities. Ms. Braley explained that the Task Force will make a recommendation to the Board but it is not bound by the recommendations. Mr. Hoskins stated the group’s focus in the short-term will be on operationalizing and defining the potential expansion of accredited activities.

Denise O’Donnell Day Pro Bono Award Nominations – Ms. Braley oriented the Board on their recent selection of recipients for the various ISB professional awards, noting that the ISB had not received nominations for the Denise O’Donnell Day Pro Bono Award from the Second, Fifth, and Sixth Districts but that Commissioner Weeks had recently nominated Joanna McFarland to receive the award in the Second District. Ms. Braley noted that she had reached out to the Fifth and Sixth

District Bar Officers and Justice Brody to solicit nominations from the Fifth and Sixth Districts. She has not received any nominations since. It was moved, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to select Joanna McFarland to receive the Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award in the Second District.

2026 Commissioner Elections – Ms. Braley reported that Commissioners Bjorkman and Jackson will leave the Commission after the Annual Meeting in June. To date, Ms. Braley has received nominations for Matthew Wolfe from the Fifth District and for Taylor Mossman-Fletcher and Judge Manweiler from the Fourth District. Ms. Braley noted that nominations are due April 7 and that elections will be open for two weeks and one day.

Strategic Planning Update – Ms. Braley highlighted the upcoming strategic planning exercise scheduled for May 1-2, 2026. Commissioner Bjorkman mentioned her recent discussion with the facilitator, Chris Newbold, including a discussion regarding a pre-exercise survey and other success strategies. The Commissioners discussed logistics for the exercise and plans for its associated activities.

Report on 2026 Bar Leadership Institute – Commissioners Hahn, Weeks, and Hayes reported on their recent attendance of the ABA Bar Leadership Institute in Chicago. They reported that it was a great experience and that there was exposure to content on various bar association models, leadership, communication strategies, use of AI, and social media.

BOC Meeting and Event Schedule – Ms. Braley introduced the current meeting schedule and upcoming events.

2026 Monthly Financials – Ms. Braley stated that January and February financial statements will be available for the April 30 Board 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 admission 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 of each Commissioner, to move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b), (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; (3) discuss with legal counsel pending and/or potential litigation; and (4) consider evaluation of an employee.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 2:08 p.m.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 4:21 p.m. and into the General Session.

Application for Admission - "Applicant A" – Upon motion, duly seconded, the Commissioners approved by unanimous vote the application of "Applicant A" as identified during the Executive

Session. President Jackson will sign the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation.

Formal Charge Request – “Attorney A” – Upon motion, duly seconded, the Commissioners found by unanimous vote that (1) there is probable cause that “Attorney A” as identified during the Executive Session violated the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct; and (2) Bar Counsel is authorized to proceed with a formal charge complaint.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m., MST.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ryan Braley
Executive Director