

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners
August 15, 2023
Boise, Idaho

President Gary Cooper called the special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Law Center in Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Kristin Bjorkman, Mary York, Jillian Caires (via Zoom), and the Hon. Robert Jackson, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, and Executive Director Diane K. 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 Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) to discuss matters involving an employee evaluation. The Board of Commissioners moved into Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners moved out of Executive Session at 3:45 p.m., and into the General Session.

GENERAL SESSION

Objection to Service Award – The Commissioners considered emails they received from Gabriel Rench objecting to Moscow attorney Mia Bautista receiving a 2023 service award. Mr. Rench alleges that Ms. Bautista violated his First Amendment rights regarding enforcement of a Moscow city ordinance passed during the COVID-19 shutdown. Mr. Rench later filed suit naming Ms. Bautista and other defendants. Mr. Rench provided the Commissioners with a copy of the federal court’s decision denying the defendants’ motion for summary judgment and ordering the parties to participate in a settlement conference. President Cooper described the federal lawsuit settling shortly after the settlement conference.

The Commissioners considered Mr. Rench’s objection. The Commissioners discussed Ms. Bautista receiving the service award for her many years of volunteer service to the ISB and municipal lawyer associations. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed to respond to Mr. Rench with a letter, signed by President Cooper, indicating that the Commissioners appreciated his emails, but that they believe Ms. Bautista to be deserving of the service award.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director