

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
April 8, 2016
Lewiston, Idaho

President Trudy Fouser called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 8:40 a.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston. In addition to President Fouser, in attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Tim Gresback, Dennis Voorhees and Kent Higgins, Bar Counsel Brad Andrews, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Deputy Executive Director Mahmood Sheikh 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 pending and/or potential litigation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting as amended.

BOC Election Update – The Commissioners were provided with the petitions from the candidates for Commissioner: First District - Benjamin Allen, Courtney Beebe, Michael Howard and Michael Palmer; Fourth District – David Cooper and Michele Vos.

2016 Award Selection – The Commissioners reviewed the potential recipients of the various awards and made the following award selections:

Distinguished Jurist - It was moved, seconded and passed to select Judge Karen L. Lansing as the 2016 Distinguished Jurist.

Distinguished Lawyer – It was moved, seconded and passed to select the following attorneys as the 2016 Distinguished Lawyers: S. Richard Rubin, Dale G. Higer, Robert E. Williams and Wendy J. Olson.

Outstanding Young Lawyer – It was moved, seconded and passed to select the following attorneys as the 2016 Outstanding Young Lawyers: Michael W. Brown and Sunrise A. Ayers.

Section of the Year – It was moved, seconded and passed to select the Family Law Section as the 2016 Section of the Year.

Professionalism Awards – The Commissioners discussed potential recipients of the 2016 Professionalism Awards. The Commissioners decided to finalize the selection of Professional Award recipients at the May meeting.

Service Awards – It was moved, seconded and passed to select the following attorneys to receive 2016 Service Awards: Melanie E. Baillie, Allan R. Bosch, Peter D. Christofferson, Yecora L. Daniels, Richard A. Diehl, Deborah A. Ferguson, Judge David D. Manweiler, Celeste K Miller and J. Walt Sinclair.

Contested Judicial Election Survey - The Commissioners were provided with the information for the upcoming survey of lawyers regarding the candidates for the Idaho Supreme Court. The Executive Director explained the process for conducting the survey and disseminating the results.

Lawyers Serve! - President Fouser updated the Commissioners on the Lawyers Serve Campaign. Dan Black is writing vignettes about lawyers' service and will be working on a brochure to highlight the service of lawyers. The information will be disseminated to bar members as well as the public. Specific vignettes will be provided to the local newspaper in the community where the lawyer lives.

ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services – The Commissioners were provided with two issues papers from the ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services: Legal Checkups and Unregulated Legal Service Provider (LSP) entities. The Commissioners discussed whether to consider establishing a Committee or Task Force to consider access to justice issues and/or the future of the legal profession. The Commissioners discussed who and what entities should be involved in the committee. The Commissioners agreed that this could be a topic for the July meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court. The Executive Director agreed to provide ideas and examples of future commissions at the next meeting.

2016 Licensing Update – The Commissioners were provided with the Idaho Supreme Court Order canceling the licenses to practice law for those attorneys who did not pay license fees. The Executive Director reported that, to date, only one lawyer's license was reinstated.

2016 Meetings and Events - The Commissioners were provided with an updated meetings and events schedule for the coming year.

Disciplinary/Admission information – The Commissioners were provided with the following Disciplinary Orders; PCB Order stipulating a Public Reprimand for Royce Lee, ISC Order issuing a 90 day suspension for Theresa A. Martin and a ISC Order issuing a 2 year (with all but 6 months withheld) suspension for David G. Pena.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the February and March financial reports. At the end of March, 83.9% of revenue was collected and 23.2% of expenses incurred.

Investment Policy Statement – The Commissioners were provided with the updated Investment Policy Statement. The Commissioners requested a few more revisions to clarify certain references to the bar and bar management.

MEMBER SERVICES

Annual Meeting Update – Deputy Director Sheikh reviewed the annual meeting agenda. The Commissioners were provided with the notice regarding scholarships for the Annual Meeting.

Idaho Supreme Court Candidates Forum – Deputy Director Sheikh reported that the Appellate Practice Section, Litigation Section and the Idaho Women Lawyers are planning a forum featuring the Idaho Supreme Court candidates on April 19.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/NEWS CLIPPINGS

Admissions – Commissioner Voorhees asked the staff to obtain the information on taking the bar exam during the third year of law school from the Arizona Courts.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director