

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE (F&AC)

State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

August 27, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Telephonic Meeting

Minutes (Approved (9/17/26))

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

P = present in person; T = present telephonically; A= absent.

T – Louis Fidel, Chair

A – Mignonne Hollis, Vice Chair

A – Damon Ashcraft

A – Dave Byers

T – Jeff Schrade (Arizona Supreme Court Alternative Representative)

T – Heather Baker-Mushkatel

A – David Rosenbaum

T – Tom Ryan

T – Cliff Hill (Client Protection Fund Board Liaison/Non-voting F&AC member)

A – Doreen McPaul (President – Board of Governors)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

State Bar Staff:

T – Joel England

T – Jessica Iennarella

T – Maret Vessella

T – Roberta Tepper

A – Noah Coakley

T – Trish McCarty

T – Tim Eigo

T – Lori Maxwell

T – Jessica Fotinos

T – Deanna Commack

T – Octavius Garrett

Minutes taken by: Octavius Garrett

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Called to Order by: Louis Fidel

Time: 10:12 a.m.

II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Individuals addressing the Committee: None

Discussion: None

III. Presentation: Finance & Audit Committee Introduction

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Louis Fidel, Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Brief introduction of the committee's purpose and the members of the committee.

IV. Action/Vote – Approval of Meeting Minutes – 5/14/26

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Louis Fidel

Discussion: Louis F. presented the meeting minutes for May 14, 2026, for review and approval.

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to approve May 14, 2026, meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

V. Action/Vote – Sponsorship Requests – Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Arizona Black Bar, Council of Chief Judges of the State Court of Appeals, and Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Joel England, Jessica Iennarella, Jessica Fotinos

Discussion: Joel E. and Jessica I. discussed the details of each sponsorship request received from Southern Arizona Legal Aid, the Arizona Black Bar, the Council of Chief Judges of the State Court of Appeals, and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, including request history and rationale for approving requests over the \$2,500 limit Joel E. can approve.

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to authorize Joel E. to approve the sponsorship request from Southern Arizona Legal Aid at level recommended by staff.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to authorize Joel E. to approve the sponsorship request from the Arizona Black Bar at level recommended by staff.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to authorize Joel E. to approve the sponsorship request from the Council of Chief Judges of the State Court of Appeals at \$2,500.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to go into executive session at 10:32 a.m. to discuss the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law sponsorship request.

Seconded by: Louis F.

Motion: Passed unanimously

Motion/Moved by: Tom R. motioned to come out of executive session at 10:41 a.m.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion/Moved by: Tom R. motioned to authorize Joel E. to deny the sponsorship request from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Seconded by: Louis F.

Motion: Passed unanimously

VI. Action/Vote – Financial Policies & Processes Manual Revisions

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. presented the changes to the Financial Policies & Processes Manual as proposed by the Reserve Planning Working Group. Provided reminder of work undertaken by working group and high-level discussion of changes. Reminder that any changes will need full Board approval.

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to recommend the Board approve the changes to the Financials Policies & Processes Manual as proposed by the Reserve Planning Working Group.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

VII. Action/Vote – 2027 Budget Guidelines Memorandum

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Joel England, Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. and Joel E. presented the 2027 Budget Guidelines Memorandum, including changes from the memorandum as presented in 2026. Jessica I. and Joel E. also noted that this Memorandum still needs approval from the full Board.

Motion/moved by: Tom R. motioned to recommend the Board approve the 2027 Budget Guidelines Memorandum as presented.

Seconded by: Heather B.

Motion: Passed unanimously

VIII. Discussion – 2025 Financial Audit Update

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. provided an update regarding the 2025 financial statements audit, which is in the final stages. The final report is scheduled tentatively for September issuance, and the auditors will present at the September Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

IX. Discussion – Investment Subcommittee – Performance Update & Member Appointment

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. provided a status update regarding investment performance for the Bar's reserves. An overview of the purpose of the Investment Subcommittee was provided and a minimum of two volunteers to serve on the committee for the 2026/2027 Board year were requested. Mignonne H. and Tom R. were appointed to serve.

X. Information – July 2026 State Bar of Arizona Financial Update

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. provided an update regarding significant financial activities through July 2026, including membership fees, CLE revenue, and MCLE fees.

XI. Information – Client Protection Fund Update – 2nd Quarter 2026

Individual(s) addressing the Committee: Jessica Iennarella

Discussion: Jessica I. provided an update regarding the 2026 second quarter operating results for the Client Protection Fund, including the status of claims processing.

Meeting adjourned by: Louis Fidel at 11:12 a.m.