

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

**Board Retreat
Tubac, Arizona**

July 24, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Doreen N. McPaul, President, Gilbert; Kelsi Lane, President-Elect, Tempe; D. Christopher Russell, Vice President, Sierra Vista; Louis S. Fidel, Secretary-Treasurer, Tucson; J. Damon Ashcraft, Phoenix; Dean Angela Banks, Ex-Officio Member, ASU; Dave K. Byers, At-Large Member, Scottsdale; Cedric Dave, Public Member, Chandler; Jena Decker-Xu, Phoenix; Russell Duerksen, Chino Valley; Amy P. Hernandez, Tucson; Mignonne Hollis, Public Member, Sierra Vista; David J. Johns, Flagstaff; Dean Jason Kreag, Ex-Officio Member, UofA; Jack Lunsford, Phoenix; Robert J. McWhirter, Phoenix; Preston L. Pollock, Globe; David B. Rosenbaum, Phoenix; Thomas Ryan, Chandler; Jeff Schrade, At-Large Member, Phoenix; Cortez W. Smith, Public Member, Casa Grande; Chloé R. Woods, Phoenix.

BOARD MEMBERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Rebecca Baker, Phoenix; Heather Baker-Mushkatel, Sun City; Denis M. Fitzgibbons, Casa Grande; John W. Graham, Scottsdale; Justice Kathryn King, Supreme Court Liaison, Phoenix; Samuel J. Saks, Board Advisor, Tempe; SJ Shannon, YLD President; Jimmie Dee Smith, Yuma; Charles Thomson, SLD President.

STAFF: Joel England, Chief Executive Officer; Noah Coakley, Chief of Staff & Director of Community Impact; Deanna Commack, Executive Assistant; Tim Eigo, Chief Communications Officer; Jessica Fotinos, General Counsel; Jessica Iennarella, Chief Financial Officer; Tanner Johnson, IT Support Specialist; Lori Maxwell, Chief Information Officer; Trish McCarty, Human Resources Director; Amy Rehm, Deputy Chief Bar Counsel; Patricia Seguin, Legal Affairs and Governance Manager; Roberta Tepper, Chief Member Services Officer; Maret Vessella, Chief Bar Counsel.

GUESTS: No guests present.

1. Call to Order – Doreen McPaul

President Doreen McPaul called the Board meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

2. Call to the Public - Doreen McPaul

President McPaul made a Call to the Public and hearing nothing, moved on to the next item on the agenda.

3. CEO's Report – Joel England

- CEO England acknowledged the passing of former Board of Governors President Dee-Dee Samet. Encouraged board members to review the email sent by Tim Eigo and the Communications Department. Asked if anyone had any information on funeral services to pass it on.
- Convention and CLE by the Sea

- Applauded the successful completion of the 2026 Convention and CLE by the Sea convention in Coronado, California, crediting the Member Services and Communications teams for their contributions.
- NABE & NCBP Conference
 - President McPaul and CEO England will attend the National Association of Bar Professionals (NABE) and National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) conferences July 28 – August 1 in Chicago, IL. Chief of Staff Noah Coakley and Fabiola Perez, Public Services Center Manager, will accept the NABE Community & Educational Outreach Award on behalf of the Bar.
- 2027 Budget Planning
 - Staff will begin the budget planning process with meetings and discussions and will present a budget to the Board in December for approval.
- Senior Leadership Team Retreat
 - The Senior Leadership Team will meet as a group on August 28 to discuss the strategic plan and other Bar issues and items discussed at the BoG retreat.

4. Consent Agenda – Doreen McPaul

- President McPaul asked if there were any matters that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda.
 - a) Approval of Resignations in Good Standing
 - b) Approval of Resignations in Lieu of Reinstatement
 - c) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with Annual Membership Fees and/or Rule 43, Ariz. R. Sup Ct.
 - d) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with MCLE Requirements (Rule 45, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.)
 - e) June 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda made by Cedric Dave
 Seconded by Russell Duerksen
 Motion passed

5. Alternate Delegate for ABA House of Delegates Annual Meeting – Jessica Fotinos

Delegate Tiffany Tom is unable to attend the 2026 annual meeting. Former Delegate Rachel Raynes is available to serve as an alternate in Ms. Tom's place. The Executive Council approved a request to allow Ms. Raynes to serve as an alternative delegate for the 2026 annual meeting only. Ms. Fotinos seeks Board approval to allow for the submission of alternate certification forms to the ABA to allow Ms. Raynes to serve as an alternate delegate for this meeting only and for the Bar to reimburse her travel and meeting expenses.

MOTION to approve Rachel Raynes serving as an alternate delegate for the 2026 Annual ABA House of delegates meeting made by Cedric Dave
 Seconded by David Rosenbaum
 Motion passed

6. Juvenile Law Section Dues Increase – Roberta Tepper

- The Juvenile Law Section is looking for approval to increase its dues from \$35 to \$40 to help ensure budget goals are met and to provide a number of CLEs to section members.

MOTION to approve increase of Juvenile Law Section dues by \$5 made by David Rosenbaum
Seconded by Russell Duerksen
Motion passed

7. Additional Law Schools in Arizona – Dave Byers

- Dave Byers presented a proposal by the Arizona Supreme Court to establish additional law schools in Arizona.
 - Arizona is a legal desert and is experiencing a real problem in rural areas with a lack of attorneys to provide legal services.
 - The Arizona Supreme Court is looking at ways to ensure attorneys practice in rural areas.
 - Northern Arizona University plans to establish a law school with remote learning and part-time options to appeal to individuals living in rural areas. The program is modeled after Tennessee and will not be accredited by the American Bar Association. The Arizona Supreme Court will need to approve this law school.
 - Grand Canyon University is starting a law school. It will be a full-time law school, subject to approval by the Arizona Supreme Court, initially, and not the ABA. Although GCU may submit for ABA accreditation in the future. GCU will begin programming in August 2027 or January 2028.
 - With approval from the Arizona Supreme Court, these two schools will produce graduates who can sit for the Arizona Bar exam, but absent ABA accreditation, not sit for the bar exam in other states.
 - The Board discussed this proposal. Dave Byers will follow-up with the Board at future meetings.

8. Finance and Audit Committee – Jessica Iennarella

- Q2 2026 financial update provided. YTD operating surplus of \$593K relative to a budgeted surplus of \$199K. Investment activity for first six months netted a surplus of \$1,225K. Total change in net assets through June is a \$1,818K surplus. Briefly discussed revenue and expense trends.
- Fiscal Responsibility reminder was provided. Emphasis to Board on being familiar with Appendix A (Reserve Policies) & Appendix D (Finance Responsibilities). Reviewed high-level responsibilities for each level of governance in the organization.

9. 2026 Convention Report – Roberta Tepper

- Roberta provided a report to the Board on the Convention, noting a total of 1K registrants, over 200 faculty members, and attendance by 21 new Bar members.
- 10.5% first time attendees.
- Free plenary on AI drew 129 attendees.
- Both Thursday and Friday lunches sold out, and we received good comments regarding the keynote speaker.
- This year an app was created and used by 300 attendees. Feedback was positive. Roberta thanked the IT Department for going above and beyond in creating the app.

10. Correspondence – Joel England

- Letter from John Phelps
 - Mr. Phelps will be present at September's board meeting to follow-up and have a conversation regarding his correspondence.

11. ADJOURNED at 11:17 a.m.