

**MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE  
STATE BAR OF ARIZONA  
July 28, 2017  
Hassayampa Inn, Marina Room  
Prescott, AZ**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alex Vakula, President, Prescott; Jeffrey Willis, President-Elect, Tucson; Brian Furuya, Vice President, Flagstaff; Lori Higuera, Secretary-Treasurer, Phoenix; Daniel Mazza, Young Lawyers Division President, Phoenix; Tyler J. Carrell, Phoenix; David Wm. Engelman, Phoenix; Hector Figueroa, Payson; Denis M. Fitzgibbons, Casa Grande; Patrick Greene, Tombstone; Robert J. McWhirter, Phoenix; Pouria Paknejad, Phoenix; Jennifer Rebholz, Phoenix; Samuel Saks, Phoenix; Dee-Dee Samet, Tucson; Jessica Sanchez, Phoenix; Sara A. Siesco, Phoenix; Jimmie Dee Smith, Yuma; Benjamin P. Taylor, Phoenix; Public Members: Jason E. Cobb, Phoenix; John Gordon, Prescott; Anna C. Thomasson, Phoenix; and At-Large Members: David K. Byers, Phoenix; Paul Senseman, Phoenix; Ex-Officio Members: Victoria Ames, on behalf of Dean Douglas Sylvester, Tempe; Leah Won on behalf of Dean Marc Miller, Tucson; Lisa S Loo, Immediate Past President, Tempe; and Dean Penny Willrich, Phoenix.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Kenney F. Hegland, Tucson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Nina Benham, Board Services Specialist; Lisa Deane, Chief Member Services Officer; Rick DeBruhl, Chief Communications Officer; Kathy Gerhart, Chief Financial Officer; Gayle Jackson, Human Resources Director; Ann Leslie, Executive Assistant; Lisa Panahi, General Counsel; John Phelps, CEO/Executive Director; Amy Rehm, Deputy Chief Bar Counsel; George Schader, Information Technology Manager; and Carrie Sherman, Director of Board Operations.

The State Bar of Arizona Board of Governors held its regular meeting July 28, 2017, in Prescott, Arizona at the Hassayampa Inn.

President Alex Vakula called the Board meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Alex Vakula

- Reported he would be attending the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) in New York City, August 10-12.
- Appellate Court Investitures this month:
  - Hon. Jennifer Campbell, August 11. Brian Furuya will make the presentation.
  - Hon. Marie Elena Cruz, August 25. President Vakula will make the presentation.
- Chairs of Standing Bar Committees will receive a letter advising of Board action on the Program Review Committee's recommendations: which committees remain "committees" and are now subject to the Public Meetings Policy; which have undergone name changes and are not subject to the Policy; and which are being eliminated, with any future related projects to be addressed by ad hoc working groups. Policy training scheduled for August 15 for "committee" chairs.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – President Alex Vakula made a Call to the Public and, hearing nothing, moved to the next agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Alex Vakula

- a) Approval of June 13, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of Resignations
  - i) In Good Standing
  - ii) In Lieu of Reinstatement
- c) Approval of Reinstatements
  - i) Approval of Reinstatements of Members Suspended for Non-Compliance with MCLE Requirements, Rule 45, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.
  - ii) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) Suspended for Non-Compliance with Annual Membership Dues and/or Trust Account Compliance (Rule 32(c)(10) and/or Rule 43, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.
- d) Request for Annual Dues Waiver

**MOTION:** Tyler Carrell moved, Pouria Paknejad seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

**FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** – Brian Furuya and Kathy Gerhart

- Q-2 Financials
  - For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the Bar’s income statement generated a surplus of \$1,029K excluding Sections. The surplus year-to-date is \$318K more than budgeted. This is due to \$89K more in revenues and \$229K less in expenses.
  - Sections’ Activity reported a surplus of \$104K compared to a budgeted surplus of \$62K.
  - Significant Variances – None.
- SBA 401(k) Audited Financial Statements December 31, 2016 and 2015. The State Bar received a clean audit opinion.
- SBA Eide Bailly Audit 260 Letter re SBA 401(k) Plan provided in the Board materials.

**CONVENTION 2017 OVERVIEW** – Lisa Deane

- Congratulations on a very successful Convention. Forty-nine seminars were offered over the three-day event.
- Thanks to Dee-Dee Samet for all of her work coordinating the Silent Auction that benefited Tucson Homeless Connect. The event raised \$9,000 for the non-profit.
- Attendance this year was 1,068 as compared to 1,060 the last time it was in Tucson.
- The Senior Lawyers Breakfast was a hit with 119 participants (86 last year). Senior Lawyers, those over 65, who purchase a breakfast ticket may attend the Convention on Friday and take advantage of the CLE offered that day.
- The Convention netted \$40K.
- 2018 Convention will be held June 27 – 29 at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa in Chandler. Suggestions were made re transportation from the parking lot and within the conference center for senior members. Arizona’s Convention is held up as a model by the NCBP.

**MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018** – Alex Vakula

- The Board of Governors meeting schedule was distributed and has been posted online with a reminder to please calendar the dates now! Future Board and Board “Committee” meetings will be subject to the Public Meetings Policy which becomes effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. President Vakula reminded Board members to email him if they are unable to attend a meeting so that an excused absence can be recorded.
- Standing Board Committees – Assignments are being made and a final list will soon be available.
- Officers’ Meeting Calendar – President Vakula reported that at the officers’ July meeting they agreed to change the name from “Scope and Operations Committee” to “Executive Council”; Councils are not subject to the Public Meetings Policy. Board members are always welcome to attend any meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE/PARTNER BAR REPORTS**

- 2016 SBA Annual Report - The Annual Report was included in the materials and President Vakula asked the Board to look at the impressive number of programs, services and activities the State Bar delivers.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Governors, the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Higuera  
Secretary/Treasurer