MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

BIRMINGHAM BAR ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 15, 2017 2:00 PM

1. Call to Order
   President Leila Watson recognized the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
   The President called upon the Honorable Ralph Cook to deliver the invocation and lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Deceased
   Immediate Past President Bob MacKenzie read the names of those members who had passed away since the last annual meeting in December 2016. Those so recognized were:
   
   Clay Alspaugh
   Harry Asman
   Ollie L. Blan, Jr.
   Ronald E. Boackle
   Brad J. Booth
   Matthew Bowden
   Albert P. Brewer
   Judge John Calhoun
   Leo King Cooper, Jr.
   M. I. Culpepper
   Victor Gold
   Robert W. Graham
   John Allen Greene
   Hugh B. Harris, Jr.
   Willis (Buddy) Hendrix
   George (Buddy) Higginbotham
   Carey Hollingsworth
   Honorable Stuart Leach
   Robert F. Lewis
   J. Anthony (Tony) McLain
   Horace V. O’Neal, Jr.
   V. Michelle Obidavoci Parry
   John C. Rockett
   Mark L. Rowe
   Robert B. Rubin
   Nickey John Rudd, Jr.
   Morris W. Savage
   Justice Janie Shores
   Leah O. Taylor
   Jesse S. Vogtle, Sr.
   J. William Wilder, and
   George Young
4. Legal Aid Society Meeting
   President Watson next recognized James S. (Chris) Christie, Jr., outgoing president of the Legal Aid Society Board of Trustees to present to report of the Legal Aid Society. Mr. Christie announced that the Legal Aid Society had a prosperous year and thanked the BBA members for their involvement in the Society. He thanked Jequette Edmonson, who was finishing up her first year as Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society. Finally, Mr. Christie recognized Martha Jane Patton, former Executive Director of the Society, to present the Third Annual Susan Bevill Livingston Award to Judge Sandra Storm in absentia. The presentation was filmed by friends of Judge Storm and met with a round of applause.

5. BBA Lifetime Achievement Award: Mike Ermert
   President Watson called forward attorney Mike Ermert to announce the recipient of the BBA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented each year to a member of the Bar in recognition of his or her service to the Bar, the community, the state, and the nation, and his or her personal achievements as an attorney. Mr. Ermert then described the prestigious legal and public service career of this year’s recipient, Judge Ralph Cook, who accepted the award to a standing ovation.

   President Watson then recognized the Honorable Karon Bowdre to report on the State of the Federal Judiciary. Judge Bowdre first reported the statistics on the number of cases filed in the Northern District, summarizing that the Federal Courts had seen a small decrease in the number of civil cases filed, while the number of criminal cases filed had increased. Judge Bowdre reported on the proceedings of the Court’s new civil referral program and construction of new courthouses in the state. Finally, the Judge asked the membership to consider volunteering in the Federal Court’s pro bono program, which has been quite successful thus far.

7. State of the State Judiciary: 10th Circuit Presiding Judge Joseph L. Boohaker
   President Watson recognized presiding Jefferson County Circuit Judge Joseph L. Boohaker to report on the 10th Judicial Circuit. Judge Boohaker first gave a farewell to the judges retiring at the end of 2017 and reminded the membership that 27 judgeships are up for reelection in 2018. Judge Boohaker stated that the number of civil filings had increased, while the number of criminal filings had decreased somewhat substantially. The Judge then gave an update on inquiries into the Court filed by the ACLU and Department of Justice respectively, and reported that the Court continued to strive for compliance as it has in years past.

8. 50–year Member Recognition: Leila Watson
   President Watson next recognized those members of the Bar who had been admitted to practice law for 50 years of more. She introduced the following:

   H. Hampton Boles
   Patrick H. Boone
   John Wesley Clark, Jr.
   Richard J. Cohn
   Brittin T. Coleman
   John F. DeBuys, Jr.
   Henry I. Frohsin
   Thomas R. Gamble
   David E. Hampe, Jr.
   Arthur J. Hanes, Jr.
   Robert B. Huie
   Albert C. Hultquist
9. L. Burton Barnes, III, Public Service Award: Susan Silvernail, Chair, BBA Public Service Committee

President Watson then recognized forward Susan Silvernail, Chair of the BBA Public Service Committee, to deliver the L. Burton Barnes, III, Public Service Award, which, Ms. Silvernail reminded those in attendance, recognizes members who have given freely of their time and energy in public service for the benefit and betterment of the general public. Ms. Silvernail then called forward Robin Burrell to present the award to this year’s recipient, Robert “Squire” Gwin, whose work in addiction prevention and recovery has benefited members, friends, and family of the Bar for many years. Ms. Burrell testified to Mr. Gwin’s long history of public service and applauded his discretion, modesty, and selflessness, and presented him with the award, which he accepted to a standing ovation.

10. BBA Committee and Task Force Chair and co-chair recognition: Leila Watson

President Watson thanked this year’s BBA Committee members and asked committee members present to stand up and be recognized. President Watson also thanked the Judicial Funding Task Force, the Building Task Force, and the Executive Director Search Committee.

11. Secretary-Treasurer Report: Max Pulliam

President Watson next called on the 2017 Secretary-Treasurer, Maxwell H. Pulliam, to deliver the Secretary-Treasurer’s report. Mr. Pulliam reported that he had reviewed the unaudited 2017 financials and they appeared to be in good order. He stated that the 2017 audited financial report would be available to members in early 2018. Mr. Pulliam thanked the membership for passing the last month’s dues increase, the first in over a decade, and stated that going forward the Bar will be able to meet current expenditures out of current income. Upon motion to waive the reading of the 2016 Minutes of the Meeting of Membership, and second thereto, the membership approved the motion by vote.

12. Presentation to Outgoing BBA Secretary-Treasurer Max Pulliam: Leila Watson

President Watson bid Mr. Pulliam to remain at the podium and, on behalf of the Bar Association, thanked him for his diligence and precision as Secretary-Treasurer and presented him with a plaque recognizing his hard work over the past year.


President Watson called upon outgoing BBF President John Ott to deliver the Bar Foundation Report. Judge Ott reminded those present of the BBF’s mission of furthering the philanthropic efforts of the Association, and spoke on the Foundation’s many successes this year, including work on the Resolve2Solve peer mediation program in local high schools, the Raising the Bar mock trial program in Birmingham libraries, and Oral Arguments program, all benefitting Birmingham youth. Judge Ott also reported on the Foundation’s efforts to raise money for
hurricane relief, their great success in annual bocce ball tournament, and the success of the Foundation’s “A Conversation with Dean Strang.” Finally, incoming BBF President Teresa Pulliam, 10th Judicial Circuit Judge, presented Judge Ott with a framed print in recognition of his service to the Foundation.

14. Mentee/Mentor Recognition: Pooja Chawla, Mentoring Committee Chair
   President Watson then called forward Pooja Chawla, Mentoring Committee Co-chair, to recognize participants in the Mentee/Mentor program. The participants present stepped forward to receive thanks from Ms. Chawla and certificates acknowledging their completion of the program.

15. Future Leaders Forum Participant Recognition: Ashley Peinhardt, Future Leaders Forum Chair
   Next, President Watson recognized Ashley Peinhardt, 2017 Chair of the Future Leaders Forum Committee. Ms. Peinhardt and her Co-chair, Drew Herring, thanked the participants in this year’s program and presented each with an award in acknowledgment of their participation in this important program.

16. BBVLP Report: Andrew S. Nix, BBVLP Outgoing President
   President Watson then recognized Andrew S. Nix, BBVLP Outgoing President, to give a report on behalf of the program. Mr. Nix spoke on the many successes of the BBVLP in 2017, including successful fundraising, expansion of services, and the addition of a new help desk for veterans, which has been very well attended. Finally, incoming BBVLP President Jessica Drennan presented outgoing President Nix with a plaque honoring his service to the program in the 2017 year.

17. Executive Committee Recognition: Leila Watson
   President Watson next recognized the following 2017 Executive Committee members for their exceptional service to the Bar during that year:

   L. Conrad Anderson, IV
   Rodney F. Barganier
   Patricia Clotfelter
   Cedrick D. Coleman
   Diandra Debrosse-Zimmerman
   Leigh K. Forstman
   Benjamin S. Goldman
   Stevan K. Goozee
   Paul H. Greenwood
   Erik S. Heninger
   Robert P. MacKenzie, III
   Virginia E. Miller
   Grace R. Murphy
   Andrew S. Nix
   David Nomberg
   Virginia C. Patterson
   Kimberly M. Perkins
   Katie T. Powell
   Brandon C. Prince
   Maxwell H. Pulliam, Jr.
   Carl S. Randall
   Alan T. Rogers
18. Elections Committee Report: John Durward
President Watson then recognized John Durward to present the report of the BBA Elections Committee. Mr. Durward reported to the membership that, after record voter turnout in the 2017 election, the following individuals had been elected to offices in the Birmingham Bar Association and to the Legal Aid Society Board:

- Alan T. Rogers; BBA President
- T. Charles Fry, Jr.; BBA President-elect
- Gregory S. Ritchey; BBA Secretary-Treasurer
- Ashley Reitz Peinhardt; BBA Executive Committee Place #1
- Robin Beardsley Mark; BBA Executive Committee Place #2
- Houston Smith; BBA Executive Committee Place #3
- Thomas Richie and the Honorable J. Scott Vowell; Legal Aid Trustees

19. Remarks of Outgoing President: Leila H. Watson
President Watson thanked the members of the Bar for giving her the opportunity to serve as president and thanked each member of the BBA staff for their hard work and dedication, including retiring Director Bo Landrum. She reflected on the many accomplishments of the Association during her tenure as President and mentioned several members by name whose work with the Bar had been particularly outstanding.

20. Passing of Gavel: Leila H. Watson to Alan T. Rogers
President Watson called Alan Rogers to the stand and introduced the incoming President to the membership. With Mr. Rogers at the podium, President Watson spoke to his skill as an attorney and a board member and thanked him for his hard work in 2017. President Watson then passed the gavel to Mr. Rogers.

21. Recognition of Immediate Past President: Alan Rogers
President Rogers recognized Immediate Past President Leila Watson for her leadership and contributions to the Bar during 2017 and presented her with a plaque from the Association to memorialize her service as Bar President.

22. Remarks of New President: Alan Rogers
Mr. Rogers expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Bar President. He spoke to the community and support that the Bar provides to Birmingham attorneys and praised the Bar for pulling together over events during the past year. President Rogers expressed his excitement at building on the hard work of the presidents preceding him and working with the BBA staff on future endeavors.

23. Adjournment: Alan Rogers
President Rogers then asked if there was any further business to come before the meeting, and hearing none, asked the membership for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made and seconded, the 132nd Meeting of the Membership of the Birmingham Bar Association was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,

John W. (Bo) Landrum  
Executive Director  
Birmingham Bar Association