



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

SBAND Office
Bismarck, ND

September 20, 2019
3:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Aubrey Fiebelkorn Zuger, President; Zack Pelham; Pat Ward; Dan Traynor; Dean Michael McGinniss; Tonya Duffy; Judge Doug Bahr; Christina Wenko; Andrew Askew; Judge Mike Hurly; Debra Hoffarth; Ted Sandberg

Members Absent: Taylor Olson; Carrie Francis; Jennifer Albaugh

Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Zuger called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2019 and July 29, 2019 [Attachment #1]

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019 and July 29, 2019 meetings. [Z. Pelham / P. Ward] Motion carried.

Financial Statements and vouchers May, June, July, and August 2019 [Attachments #2]

Executive Director Weiler reviewed the financial statements and has met with Secretary-Treasurer Ward prior to the meeting. No areas of concern were identified.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to receive the financials. [D. Bahr / A. Askew] Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Mentorship Committee

Fifty-five new admittees are anticipated for Monday, September 23rd swearing in ceremony. SBAND will send out a call for mentors.

Member Services Committee

Smith.ai is a reception service for small firms and has agreed to be a new partner of SBAND. Smith.ai will be conducting a 1-hour, free webinar in the future.

Survey

Executive Director Weiler stated that SBAND should conduct a survey, the last survey was done in 2010. This is something the member services committee has been discussing.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to conduct a membership survey soon. [M. McGinniss / A. Askew]. Motion carried.

Appointments /Reappointments / Recommendations to the Court

Disciplinary Board - Northwest Judicial District – Three lawyers were considered for recommendation to the ND Supreme Court for appointment for the opening on the Disciplinary Board (the Court requires three names be forwarded for consideration): Kevin J. Chapman (Williston); Ty L. Skarda (Watford City); and Jordan J. Evert (Williston).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to forward the slate of names to the Supreme Court for consideration for the opening on the Disciplinary Board for the Northwest Judicial District. [D. Traynor / P. Ward] Motion carried.

Disciplinary Board – Southeast Judicial District – Three lawyers were considered for recommendation to the ND Supreme Court for appointment for the opening on the Disciplinary Board: Lyle R. Bopp (Forman); Christopher J. Thompson (West Fargo); and Jason Van Horn (West Fargo).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to forward the slate of names to the Supreme Court for consideration for the opening on the Disciplinary Board for the Southeast Judicial District. [P. Ward / D. Bahr] Motion carried.

Disciplinary Board – North Central Judicial District – Four lawyers were considered for appointment to the Disciplinary Board: Charles DeMakis (Minot); Carrie Francis (Minot); William Bergman (Minot); and Christene Reiersen (Minot).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to recommend Charles DeMakis, Carrie Francis, and Christene Reiersen to the Supreme Court for consideration for the opening on the Disciplinary Board for the North Central Judicial District. [D. Traynor / P. Ward] Motion carried.

Administrative Council

Three lawyers were considered for appointment to the Administrative Council: Parrell D. Grossman (Bismarck); Reid Brady (Fargo) and Pat Ward (Bismarck).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to forward the slate of names to the Supreme Court for consideration for the opening on the Administrative Council. [D. Bahr \ Z. Pelham] Motion carried.

SBAND Futures Task Force Update

President Zuger reported that the task force held their initial meeting on August 27, 2019. Great discussion and ideas were shared at that meeting. The Fleck case was discussed as well as other states facing similar lawsuits. Regulatory functions were identified. The many challenges to mandatory bars were named. Penny Miller, while retiring end of 2019, will be staying on as a member of the Task Force. Attorney Jennifer Hauge is going to be reviewing Court Rules as well as state statutes regarding regulatory functions. These will be reviewed at the next meeting to analyze the issues and review how things are done and the effectiveness of each. President Zuger listened to the Fleck Decision and shared her perspective.

SBAND Executive Director Evaluation Process

Secretary-Treasurer Pat Ward agreed to oversee the process again in 2019. He will be identifying committee chairs to be involved in the evaluation and will send evaluation forms to Board members, staff, and identified committee chairs.

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

Dean appoint McGinniss thanked the Board of Governors for the continued support of the UND School of Law. He reported Aleisha Lokken is the new Director of Admissions. The Class of 2022 increased by 33%. Eighty-four (84) new students representing 18 states, Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and China. He talked about UND Passage rates and the ABA Ultimate Bar passage rates.

ABA Report from Dan Traynor

Mr. Traynor reported that the ABA Mid-Year meeting will be held in Austin. There was previous discussion to relocate to Chicago because of financial constraints with the ABA. He stated his article in the next *Gavel* will include information regarding membership structure of the ABA and lower membership rates.

Executive Director's Report

- The Board of Governors will meet in Grand Forks on November 23, 2019, followed by an evening at The Ralph for a hockey game.
- Staff is working on the 2020 budget, to be reviewed by the Executive Committee and then presented to the Board at the November 23, 2019, meeting.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director



Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director