

President Pappas called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009 at the Michael Franck Building in Lansing.

Commissioners present:

Danielle Mason Anderson  
David Brake  
Lori A. Buiteweg  
Beverly Hall Burns  
Laura Chappelle  
B. D. "Chris" Christenson  
Margaret A. Costello  
Bruce A. Courtade, Treasurer  
Richard L. Cunningham  
Brian D. Einhorn  
James N. Erhart  
Elias J. Escobedo, Jr.  
Robert K. Fergan  
Julie I. Fershtman, Secretary  
Elizabeth M. Johnson  
Katherine Kakish

David A. Kallman  
Donald E. McGinnis, Jr.  
Hon. William Murphy  
Lambro Niforos  
Edward H. Pappas, President  
Eric J. Pelton  
Victoria A. Radke  
Michael J. Riordan  
Donald G. Rockwell  
Thomas C. Rombach  
Kurt Schnelz  
Richard J. Siriani  
Julie A. Sullivan  
Charles R. Toy, President-Elect  
Gregory L. Ulrich

Commissioners absent and excused:

Commissioners Jenkins was absent and excused.

State Bar Staff present:

Janet K. Welch, Executive Director  
Marge Bossenbery, Executive Coordinator  
Nancy Brown, Director, Member Services and Communications  
Gregory Conyers, Director, Pro Bono Initiative  
Candace Crowley, Manager, External Development  
Dawn Evans, Director, Professional Standards  
Cliff Flood, General Counsel  
Mary Frook, Director, Human Resources  
James Horsch, Director, Finance and Administration  
Elizabeth Lyon, Director, Governmental Relations  
Will Kramer, Director, Information Technology Services  
Naseem Stecker, Manager, Media and Public Relations  
Kari Thrush, Manager, Membership Services and Events  
Anne Vrooman, Director, Research and Development

Guests

Ms. Linda Rexer, Executive Director, Michigan Bar Foundation  
Lynn Chard, Executive Director, Institute for Continuing Legal Education  
Cameron Evans, Chair, Law and the Media Committee

Consent Agenda

Minutes

The Board received the minutes from the January 16 and March 6, 2009 Board of Commissioners meetings.

The Board received the minutes from the February 3 and March 24 Executive Committee meetings.

***President's Report***, Edward H. Pappas, President

The Board received a written report on the President's recent activities.

***Executive Director's Report***, Janet K. Welch, Executive Director

The Board received a written report on the Executive Director's recent activities.

***Finance***, Bruce A. Courtade, Chairperson

The Board received the FY Financial reports through February 09 and the FY 2009 financial forecast.

***Professional Standards***, Julie I. Fershtman, Chairperson

The Board received the Client Protection Fund Claims.

A motion was offered and supported to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Cameron Evans, Chair of the Law and Media Committee, provided the Board with a committee report.

Ms. Welch and Ms. Rexer presented the Board with a presentation regarding "A Lawyer Helps."

Ms. Welch reviewed the changes to the Strategic Plan offered by the Board at its March 6 meeting and offered the plan to the Board for approval. A motion was offered and supported to adopt the strategic plan as amended. Motion carried.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEES**

***Finance***, Bruce A. Courtade, Chairperson

Mr. Courtade provided the Board with a financial update and forecast of the State Bar.

Mr. Courtade explained that membership numbers had decreased in February, due to the fact that members are suspended at that time if they have not paid their dues. 624 active and 100 inactive were suspended for non payment of dues and since February 18, 294 active and 25 inactive members have been reinstated and 700 new attorneys have joined the Bar.

***Professional Standards***, Julie I. Fershtman, Chairperson

Ms. Fershtman provided the Board with a historical perspective on the appointment of members to the ABA House of Delegates nomination. A motion was offered and supported to reappoint Ms. Vanessa Williams Peterson as the SBM representative to the ABA House of Delegates. Motion carried.

***Programs and Services***, W. Anthony Jenkins, Chairperson

In Mr. Jenkins absence, Mr. Escobedo provided the Programs and Services report.

Mr. Escobedo reported that the April 2009 Bar Journal will be mailed to members next week. He noted that the number of pages in this publication has decreased by 100 and that the paper used is more environmentally friendly than previous directories.

Ms. Escobedo indicated that the member benefit from Harleyville insurance has been discontinued.

**50-Year Golden Celebration Resolution**

Mr. Escobedo offered a motion to approve the resolution that is given to the members at the 50-year Golden Celebration. Support was given and the motion carried.

Membership Services Program Update

Mr. Escobedo indicated that there was not a quorum at the membership services meetings so consequently there are no new member services to report.

Recognition of South Asian Bar Association

Mr. Escobedo reported that the South Asian Bar Association is asking to be recognized as a Special Bar Association. A motion was offered and supported to approve the application from the South Asian Bar Association to become a special purpose bar association. Motion carried.

**Public Policy, Image and Identity**, Charles R. Toy, Chairperson

Justice Initiatives Report

The Board received a written report from Justice Initiatives.

The Board received a written report from Governmental Consultants Services, Inc.

Court Rules

There were no court rules on the agenda for the committee to consider.

Legislation

There was no legislation on the agenda for the committee to consider.

Mr. Toy reported that the State Bar has been asked to sponsor a conference of the Michigan Public Defense Task Force. A motion was offered and supported to have the SBM co-sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Michigan Public Defense Task Force Conference - Reforming Michigan's Public Defense System: The Economic, Social and Human Benefits. Motion carried. Hon. William Murphy abstained from the vote.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**President's Report**, Edward H. Pappas, President

Board Officer Election Procedure, Matrix and 2009 Timeline

Mr. Pappas reviewed with the Board members the process for the Board officer elections and provided them with a timeline for submitting the required documents.

Law Related Education (LRE) Summit Update

Mr. Pappas reported that about 50 individuals participated in the LRE summit and that a first draft of a written plan to expand and deepen law related education will be submitted to the committee by the end of the month.

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program (LJAP) Dinner

Mr. Pappas indicated that he, along with Mr. Toy, Mr. Escobedo and Ms. Welch, attended a dinner that the State Bar of Michigan LJAP helped sponsor for the Brighton National Addiction Foundation.

Professionalism Program

Mr. Pappas reported that on May 8 he, along with Mr. Toy, Ms. Welch and other legal professionals, will participate in a program on professionalism designed for first year law schools students. This program will be presented to students at the Cooley Law School–Auburn Hills campus during their orientation. He anticipates that this program will eventually expand to include students at all of Michigan's law schools.

**Executive Director's Report**, Janet K. Welch, Executive Director

FY2010 Budget Process, Roles, and Calendar

Ms. Welch reviewed the FY 2010 budget process with the Board.

Supreme Court Matters

Ms. Welch reported that it appears that there is some movement from the Court to involve the Bar earlier in the process when suggested court rule changes are received.

Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters to report.

Litigation Status Report

Ms. Welch reported that absent a request from a Board member to enter into an executive session to discuss an item included in the litigation status report, it will be sent to the Board as an informational item.

Update on March 26 Congressional Hearing

Ms. Lyon provided the Board with an update on the issues surrounding the reform of the public defense system in Michigan.

**Representative Assembly Report**, Katherine Kakish, Chairperson

Ms. Kakish provided the Board members with an update on the items that are scheduled to be discussed at its April 18 meeting.

**American Bar Association (ABA) Report**, Reginald Turner, State Delegate

There was no written report.

Mr. Ulrich reported that during the upcoming week, representatives from the ABA will travel to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress to discuss the initiatives that will be the focus of the efforts of the ABA during the upcoming year.

Ms. Welch informed the Board that the Michigan delegation includes Mr. Pappas, Mr. Courtade, Ms. Lyon, Mr. Conyers, Hon. Cynthia Diane Stephens and herself. As has been the case in previous years, they will advocate for increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation. This year's discussions will also include federal funding for the indigent public defense.

**Young Lawyers Section Report**, Chris Christenson, Chairperson

Mr. Christenson provided the Board with a report on the Young Lawyers Section activities.

**Comments or questions from Commissioners**

There were none.

**Comments or questions from the public**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.