

MINUTES

Contra Costa County Bar Association

Board Meeting

June 5, 2024

Zoom & In-Person: 2300 Clayton Road, 1st Floor Conference Room, Concord, CA 94520

Board Members Present: David Pearson, Mike Pierson, Pa'tanisha Pierson*, Ericka McKenna, Dean Christopherson, Ray Robinson, Ariel Lee, Jonathan Lee, Ann Battin, Sutter Selleck, Punita Bhasin

**P. Pierson serves on the CCCBA Board of Directors in her individual capacity and not as an official representative of the City of Brentwood.*

Board Members Absent: Terry Leoni, Dorian Peters, David Erb

Guests: Tracy Regli, Bart Sullivan, Stuart Gilliam, Beth Mora, Julie Ann Giammona

Staff: Jody Iorns, Executive Director; Sarah Marin, Section and Events Manager; Noemi Espinoza, Finance and Operations Manager

Board Meeting Call to Order: D. Pearson called the Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. pm

New Business

Hybrid Meeting Policy: D. Pearson welcomed the guests in attendance and gave an outline as to why the Policy was on the agenda. The policy has been in place for a couple of years. Overall, the success of the policy has been positive. However, some technological challenges have been experienced and some section leaders requested the opportunity to share their concerns with the Board. One potential suggestion was made that rather than have every MCLE in-person program be hybrid, Sections be asked to make a certain number or percentage hybrid. J. Iorns shared with the Board that the staff is very aware of the challenges that the current technology is creating. She advised that the Disability Rights Subcommittee, earlier in the year, had discussed some of the challenges and wrote a grant for funding to upgrade the equipment and get new add-ons to enhance to microphone and audio quality. She confirmed that we had secured the grant and that new equipment would be secured ASAP.

Extensive discussion was held regarding the policy and the requirements placed on both the sections and CCCBA overall. Representatives from the Disability Rights Subcommittee reviewed the policy and highlighted the option for Sections to request an 'exception' should they face significant challenges finding a location that would support hybrid MCLE. It was communicated that the policy was not clearly communicated to the Sections.

Recommendations moving forward include that CCCBA Staff will work to identify locations that support hybrid programs effectively. J. Iorns advised that she is working closely with the Contra Costa Country Club to identify ways in which the system can be improved so that that space can still be used. A question was asked if Sections would be required to use the vetted list created by CCCBA and J. Iorns said no. Sections are free to use locations of their choosing, that the list provided would be recommendations only.

Welcome New Staff – D. Pearson welcomed Noemi Espinoza as the new Finance and Operations Manager. N. Espinoza shared a little about her background and experience she is bringing to CCCBA. The Board welcomed Ms. Espinoza.

"Emeritus" membership proposal – A. Battin gave background on the proposal submitted to the Board for consideration. The Board discussed the proposal. **A. Battin moved and J. Lee seconded the following motion:**

Create a new Membership category named "Emeritus." Retired/not-active members commit to at least 36 hours a year of volunteer hours with CCCBA and/or CCJFA for a reduced membership fee of \$50. For the first year, the member shall pay the full \$145 in advance and upon completion of the volunteer hours will have \$95 refunded to them. Each year thereafter, should they apply and commit again to that contribution,

they will only be charged \$50. Emeritus members who participate in any Section or CCCBA Board role will automatically be credited with the required 36 hours.

Motion passed unanimously.

Program honoring Les Morgan request: A. Lee shared that she and the Family Law Section had been contacted by Jerome Blaha to host a program honoring Les Morgan and has offered to be the exclusive sponsor. J. Iorns confirmed that she and the staff would be willing to work with Mr. Blaha about this program targeted for the late fall. ***P. Pierson moved and A. Lee seconded a motion to explore this program. Motion passed unanimously.***

Exec Bench/Bar Meeting: D. Pearson advised that the Exec. Bench/Bar was being held the following day. On our agenda are the topics that will be discussed by the Court. D. Pearson invited questions for us to ask or discuss. Nothing was offered and he invited folks that ideas to be sent to him or J. Iorns.

Old Business

Laura Ramsey Memorial Activities: E. McKenna gave brief update advising that information had been received from Theresa Hurley and that Ericka had attended the memorial service. She offered that this no longer needs to be an agenda item except for when any action item needs to be addressed.

Update on Board Nominations: S. Selleck reviewed the progress of nominations and encouraged folks to talk up applications.

Reports

Section and Committee Reports – included in Board Packet.

Announcements

June Events – J. Iorns reviewed the events as listed on the Board Agenda. P. Bhasin highlighted the East County Group that is meeting and her intention is to promote membership and engagement at that event.

Consent Calendar

P. Pierson moved and S. Selleck Seconded to approve May 1, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Board meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.