

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

Outrigger Canoe Club
2909 Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

Thursday, December 17, 2015

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Gregory Markham called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. with a quorum present. The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

Gregory Markham
Jodi Yi
Russ Awakuni
Mark M. Murakami

Others Present

Susu Markham

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito
Christina Bae

Directors Present

Brian Black
Cecelia Chang
Steven Chow
Rebecca Copeland
Vladimir Devens
Rhonda Griswold
Geraldine Hasegawa
Carol Kitaoka
Derek Kobayashi
Mei-Fei Kuo
Georgia McMillen
Mark K. Murakami
Alika Piper
Miriah Holden - YLD President

Board Members Absent

Nadine Ando^x
Karin Holma^x
Laurel Loo^x

^xExcused Absence.

- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 Board meeting.
- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - nothing to report.
- D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported on the following items:
- 2016 Licensing Registration Update - As of 12/15/2015, 2000 members have registered; 6000 more to go.
 - 2016 Annual Dinner is set for August 20th; 2016 Bar Convention is set for October 14th. Savings will be realized due to both events being held at the Hawaii Convention Center.
 - Courts-in-the-Community - Successful December 10th program at Waianae High School was attended by 325 students. Programs will probably be held on Maui in 2016 and on the Windward side in 2017.
- E. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Miriah Holden reported that the Mock Trial project for 2016 has started up with the judges arranged and 6 weeks of competition scheduled.
- F. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **HSTJA-HSBA Committee**

Action taken: A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President Gregory Markham's appointment of the following attorney members on the joint Hawaii State Trial Judges Association-Hawaii State Bar Association Committee for 2016: Robert Frija, Daniel Kim, Scott Leong, Laurel Loo, and Jonathan Ortiz. Other attorney members on the HSTJA-HSBA Committee will include Jodi Yi and Russ Awakuni.

There was a comment over the lack of diversity in the attorney members being appointed to the Committee, who are mainly solo practitioners or from small firms and older attorneys. It was explained that attorneys with not many years of experience may be reticent to discuss sensitive issues with judges present. President Markham noted those comments.

Subsequent to this board meeting, it was decided that one other attorney member would be appointed to have an equal number of attorney and judicial members on the Committee.

2. **60-Day Notice to Establish New Section** - After the November Board meeting, the HSBA asked for, and received, proposed budgets for the first two years of operation from the proponents who wish to establish a "Solo and Small Firm Hawaii Section." The Board members discussed and decided that the 60-day bylaw requirement for the creation of a new Section would begin on the date of Board receipt of a complete application packet, in this instance,

December 17th, and that the Board would take final action on the request for the proposed Solo and Small Firm Hawaii Section at the February 2016 Board meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

3. Approval of 2016 HSBA Representatives to Supreme Court Nominating Committee

Action taken: A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President-elect Jodi Yi's appointment of the following individuals as 2016 HSBA representatives to the Supreme Court Nominating Committee: Sidney Ayabe, Sherry Broder, Judge Linda Luke, and Stephanie Rezens. President-elect Yi recused herself from voting.

4. Approval of 2016 HSBA Nominating Committee

Action taken: A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify President-elect Jodi Yi's appointment of the following individuals as 2016 HSBA Nominating Committee members: Judge Linda Luke (chair), Nadine Ando, Sidney Ayabe, Rosalyn Loomis, Howard Luke, Judge Henry Nakamoto, and Caryn Okinaga. President-elect Yi recused herself from voting.

5. Proposed Amendments to Board Policy Manual - President-elect Yi stated that the HSBA Publications Committee has requested that the proposed amendments to the Board Policy Manual regarding circulation of the *Hawaii Bar Journal* and the Hawaii Bar Directory be deferred until the Committee has time to discuss and consider it.

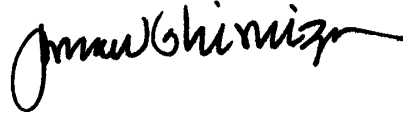
6. Member Request re: Attorneys Claiming Financial Hardship - The Board discussed the request, for attorneys who experience financial hardship, to pay their bar dues and fees in installments or have it waived partially or entirely for the year. While acknowledging the difficult situation of these attorneys, Board members expressed concern over accommodating such a request at this time as there is no structure in place to enable installment payments or waivers and no system in place to keep track of it. A comment was also made that the annual dues and fees are akin to professional licenses to monitor/oversee the practice of law.

Action taken: A motion was made and seconded to retain the current HSBA attorney renewal payment structure (payment in full vs. by installments). An amendment was made and seconded to the original motion to add that the issue be referred to the Solo and Small Firm Hawaii Section, once established, for further study. The amended main motion was carried without opposition.

H. ADJOURNMENT

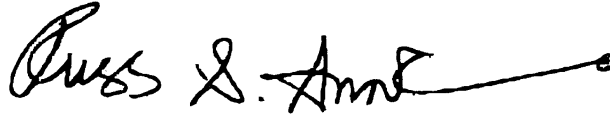
The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Russ S. Awakuni
HSBA Secretary