

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

(via Zoom)
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, December 17, 2020

A. CALL TO ORDER

President P. Gregory Frey called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. with a quorum present. The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

P. Gregory Frey
Levi Hookano
Russ Awakuni
Paul Naso

Others Present

Rhonda Griswold
Alika Piper
Shannon Sheldon

Directors Present

Steven Chow
Craig De Costa
Vladimir Devens
Jessica Domingo
William Harrison
Geraldine Hasegawa
Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Carol Kitaoka
Erin Kobayashi
Jeen Kwak
Corianne Lau
Mark K. Murakami
Ralph O'Neill

HSBA Staff Present

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito
Christina Bae

Directors Absent

Jacob Lowenthal - excused
Zale Okazaki - excused
Addison Bonner - excused

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 board meeting.

***C. NEW BUSINESS**

* Item taken out of order.

1. **Hawaii Chapter of the Christian Legal Society** (HCLS)- Director William Harrison, a member of the Christian Legal Society, explained the request by other Hawaii members of the Christian Legal Society to be recognized by the HSBA as a specialty bar association. He noted that the local chapter needs to be a member of the national society, similar to the local affiliate of NAPABA. Mr. Harrison further explained that the HCLS bylaws are based on the national bylaws.

Board members discussed whether recognizing a religious-based legal group as a specialty bar association would raise any *Keller issues*, but it was determined that minimal funds would be used in placing the group on the HSBA's website and including it in the annual attorney renewal form. A question was also raised whether HSBA would then need to entertain requests by other religious groups and recognize those as well.

Action taken: After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the request of the Hawaii members of the Christian Legal Society to be recognized by the HSBA as a specialty bar association. Mr. Harrison abstained from voting.

- D. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Paul Naso reported that as of November 30th, at \$1.78M, revenues were under budget. We are projected to be \$1.9M in revenue at year end, which is about \$292k under budget. Similarly, expenses are under budget at \$1.45M, and is projected to be \$1.65M at year end. The year is anticipated to close with a surplus which will be used to make a prepayment on the mortgage as approved by the Board at the October board meeting.
- E. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Pat Mau-Shimizu reported that the annual license registration progression is consistent with prior years. There has been no noticeable increase in members resigning from HSBA. There have been additional questions on provisional licensees this year.
- F. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2. **Vacancy on Commission on Professionalism**

Action taken: A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation to appoint Clarissa Malinao as the HSBA representative on the Commission on Professionalism for the remainder of a term to begin immediately and expire in April 2023.

3. **Legal Industry Survey Results** - Director Erin Kobayashi, the drafter of the questions on the legal industry survey, asked the Board how it wanted to proceed with the survey results. She commented that it would be logical to share the results with members. Board members agreed that the results be shared with HSBA members, but identifying names should be removed. It was also suggested that an email with a message from President Frey and President-elect Levi Hookano be included, and that survey results be posted on the HSBA website.

G. **NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

4. **Hawaii Bankruptcy Bar Association**

Action taken: After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the request of the Hawaii Bankruptcy Bar Association to be recognized by the HSBA as a specialty bar association.

5. **2021 HSTJA-HSBA Joint Committee** - President Frey reported that he plans to discuss with Judge Matthew Viola, President of the Hawaii State Trial Judges Association (HSTJA) and co-chair of this joint committee, how he would like to proceed in 2021.

2021 HSBA Committee Chair Appointments

Action taken: A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to ratify the appointments of 2021 HSBA committee chairs made by President-elect Hookano.

- H. **Thank You to the 2020 HSBA Board** - President Frey thanked the Board members and staff for their service on and to the HSBA Board. He remarked that his experience serving as HSBA President has been some of his proudest moments, albeit done virtually/remotely most of the time. He referred to the plaque that was distributed to each board member earlier as a memento and thank-you for their service in 2020.

- I. **Gift for HSBA President** - President Frey was presented with a gift (and comments by Director Steven Chow) for his leadership, dedication, and perseverance throughout 2020 (framed photos of January HBJ cover and virtual board meeting).

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Russ S. Awakuni
HSBA Secretary