

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

(via Zoom)  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, August 27, 2020

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

President P. Gregory Frey called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. with a quorum present. The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

P. Gregory Frey  
Karin Holma  
Levi Hookano  
Russ Awakuni  
Paul Naso

Directors Present

Steven Chow  
Craig De Costa  
Vladimir Devens  
William Harrison  
Geraldine Hasegawa  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Erin Kobayashi  
Jeen Kwak  
Corianne Lau  
Jacob Lowenthal  
Mark K. Murakami  
Ralph O'Neill  
Addison Bonner, YLD President

Directors Absent

Jessica Domingo - excused  
Carol Kitaoka - excused  
Zale Okazaki - excused

Others Present

Ronette Kawakami  
Camille Nelson

HSBA Staff Present

Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
Iris Ito  
Christina Bae  
Adrienne Hayashi

- B. **GUESTS** – President Frey and Board members welcomed the new Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law Camille Nelson and Associate Dean (and former HSBA Board member) Ronette Kawakami to the virtual Board meeting. Dean Nelson

thanked the Board members for their time and warm welcome and talked of law school priorities in the coming years.

- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2020 board meeting.
- D. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Paul Naso reported that as of July 31, 2020 dues revenue was about \$115k under budget projections. He also reported that non-dues related revenue was about \$330k under budget projections. He reported that it would be unlikely to meet the budget projection by year end given that there will be fewer people joining the bar by year end. Mr. Naso also noted that the virtual Bar Convention is likely to bring in less revenue than in past years. Despite the shortfall in revenue projected to be about \$310k, he reported that the HSBA may still end the year in the positive because expenses have been well controlled. He reported that as of July 31, 2020, total expenses were about \$1mm under budget. Assuming HSBA continues to spend about \$130k a month as has been the average to date, HSBA could end the year about \$350k under budget in expenses to offset the possibility that there may be a \$310k shortfall in revenue.
- E. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Ms. Mau-Shimizu reported on the following items:
- **Bar Convention** - Planning is going well for the virtual Bar Convention. A small profit is projected. Groups that will present seminars include Real Property & Financial Services Section, Environment Energy & Resources Section, Appellate Section, Hawaii Women Lawyers, and a seminar on e-discovery.
  - **Judicial Appointments** - The appointing authorities will not take their full 30 days to make their selections, so board members should be prepared to serve on their review panels.
- F. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Addison Bonner reported on the following items:
- **Mock Trial** - Planning to proceed with virtual participation by high-school students
  - **Junior Judges** - This program for elementary school students will also be virtual. Past school participants will be contacted.
- G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.
- H. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. **2021 Goal Group Projects Funding Requests** – Treasurer Naso gave a brief overview of the budget process for Goal Group projects. He referred the Board to page 9, the summary of 2021 Goal Group requests. Secretary Russ Awakuni inquired whether Carol Kitaoka's request of \$1000 for West Hawaii's Neighbor Island CLE was included. (This request came after the joint Executive-Finance Committee met and voted on its recommendation.)

East Hawaii Director Gerry Hasegawa explained that the Hawaii County Bar Association has always spent the total amount of N.I. CLE funds from HSBA and would like to continue to provide at least 2 in-person CLEs for its members, hence its request for \$1500 in 2021.

Ms. Mau-Shimizu noted the uncertainty of the number of members that may choose to go inactive, resign, or simply not renew their dues, especially after this second shutdown of the stay-at-home/work-from-home order.

**Action taken:** After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the recommendation of the joint Executive-Finance Committee for approval of the proposed 2021 Goal Group projects, with the addition of \$1000 for the West Hawaii Bar Association for N.I. CLE under Goal Group 2.

Director Mark Murakami asked about options for mid-year adjustments should the HSBA's financial situation worsen. President-elect Karin Holma explained that this is a budget, and should unanticipated expenses or loss of income occur, the Board may review the budget and vote to make adjustments.

The vote was called for and carried without opposition. The following directors abstained from voting due to their participation in committees requesting funding: Steven Chow, Vladimir Devens, William Harrison, and Geraldine Hasegawa.

2. **Member Benefits Agreement with HEMIC** - Ms. Mau-Shimizu stated that she asked Mr. Naso, who is employed by HEMIC, for an introduction to a HEMIC representative who could present a comprehensive package of insurance products to be offered to HSBA members as a member benefit. She made clear that Mr. Naso would not gain any pecuniary interest from this agreement and was not involved in putting the package together.

Board members had a discussion on getting bids from other companies and whether there are policies/procedures for adding new member benefits. Ms. Mau-Shimizu explained that a due diligence check is completed on potential member benefit providers before entering into an agreement with the companies. She also noted that a Member Benefits Committee existed years ago for the purpose of reviewing agreements, but that because it took so long in coming to decisions on potential providers, HSBA lost out on some member benefits.

It was expressed that the Board should not make it a part of its fiduciary duty to review and vet all potential benefit providers. It was suggested that staff continue to do its due diligence on companies offering member benefits and report it to the Board from time to time, so that board members may raise concerns if there any.

**Action taken:** A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the new membership benefit agreement with HEMIC. Mr. Naso abstained from voting.

3. **HSBA Annual Awards** - The recommendation from the HSBA Awards Committee was emailed to Board members earlier in the day.

**Action taken:** A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the recommendation of the Awards Committee to present the following individuals with HSBA Awards to be recognized during the Annual Meeting portion of the virtual Bar Convention:

- *Champion for Social Justice Award* (courageous legal work in the face of public controversy that helps promote the interests of justice and preserves the integrity of the judiciary) - **Cynthia Tai, Esq.**
- *Ki'e Ki'e Award* (outstanding provision of professional legal services at no charge to the recipient such as: pro bono expenditure of time on a case of great public import having a broad effect upon the legal rights or interests of a large segment of the community; extraordinary expenditure of pro bono time in cases above and beyond the normal expenditure of pro bono time within one's employment) - **Ian Wesley-Smith, Esq.**
- *'Ikena Award* (outstanding service to the public or profession toward legal education such as: brochures, speeches, classes, new public education programs) - **Momi Cazimero**

Additionally, President Frey made the following selection:

- *President's Award* (extraordinary contributions and lifetime achievement that best exemplify the mission of the HSBA: to unite and inspire Hawaii's lawyers to promote justice, serve the public, and improve the legal profession) - **Attorneys and Judges Assistance Program** and the **Hawaii Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being.**

## I. ADJOURNMENT

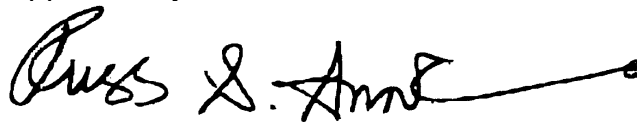
The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Russ S. Awakuni  
HSBA Secretary