

TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M. CDT
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, NASHVILLE

I. Call to Order:

The House of Delegates (HOD) of the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) convened its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at the Renaissance Hotel, in Nashville. Speaker Jim Cartiglia opened the meeting at 2:00 P.M. CDT, and Secretary Charlotte Knight Griffin called the roll. The following members were present in person or on the telephone via conference call:

Rick Bearfield – Telephone	John LaBar – Telephone
Shauna Billingsley – Telephone	Melanie Lane
Rebecca Blair – Telephone	Neil McBride
Robert Bratcher	Weber McCraw
Karen Burns – Telephone	Harrison McIver – Telephone
Jim Cartiglia	Bryce McKenzie
Aaron Chapman – Telephone	Marcia McMurray
Eve Charlesworth – Telephone	Jennifer Noe
Steve Conley	Steve Ogle – Telephone
Lisa Cothron	Jane Powers
Kasey Culbreath	Andy Roskind
Jamie Durrett	Walt Schuler – Telephone
Hank Fincher	Ewing Sellers
Nicole Grida	Graham Swafford
Charlie High	Tim Takacs – Telephone
John Holt	Ed Townsend
Tim Householder – Telephone	Charlie Trotter
Meredith Humbert	Bridget Willhite
Paul Hutcherson – Telephone	Matt Willis – Telephone
Elizabeth Hutton – Telephone	Shelly Wilson – Telephone
Charlotte Knight Griffin	Randy Womack – Telephone
Nina Kumar – Telephone	

TOTAL: 43 members, constituting a quorum.

Also present were: President Jason Pannu, Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson, Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Berkley Schwarz, Legislative Counsel Brad Lampley, General Counsel Ed Lanquist, President-Elect Sarah Sheppard, Vice President Michelle Greenway Sellers and Executive Assistant Karen Belcher.

II. Minutes of the March 29, 2019 HOD Meeting:

The minutes of the March 29, 2019 HOD meeting were presented and approved upon motion without reading.

III. TBA President's Report:

TBA President Jason Pannu reported that the TBA participated in the ABA Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. They talked with members of the Legislature about the importance of continued funding of Legal Services Corporation and public service loan forgiveness.

He also reported that the Board of Governors met in April and appointed a Pro Se Divorce Forms Committee. He shared preliminary baseline data recently collected by the AOC from Court Clerks in a sample of nine counties regarding use of the Tennessee Supreme Court plain language divorce forms. The counties sampled were Blount, Hamblen, Knox, Sullivan (East Grand Division), Davidson, Marshall, Sumner (Middle Grand Division), Dyer, and Madison (West Grand Division). The data was collected over a ten-week period from March 4, 2019 to May 10, 2019. A total of 198 filings were pro se using the forms. Of the total number of filings reported 151 were filings without children, 44 were filings with children and 3 did not identify. Review of how the forms are used will continue. Charlie Trotter posed a question about the role of the HOD in determining the position of the TBA regarding the forms.

Jason also reported that the new TBA logo and branding will be rolled out on Friday during the TBA Annual Convention.

IV. Speaker's Report

Speaker Jim Cartiglia reported that the Board of Governors was very receptive to the HOD proposal to create an award in honor of Claudia Jack to recognize one private practitioner and one public defender each year during the Public Service Luncheon. They had some questions about honoring two people since that has not been done before but referred the logistics to the Access to Justice Commission to put the award in place.

Secretary Charlotte Knight Griffin reported on the activities of the TBA Strategic Planning Committee and advised that HOD members will receive a survey in July as part of the stakeholder outreach phase of the process. The committee will be reaching out to a broad section of members and strategic partners to explore challenges and opportunities and Charlotte encouraged House members to respond.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson reported that development of the new logo has been in progress for four to five months along with planned improvements to the TBA website. The TBA Strategic Planning Committee will meet in Nashville on August 16 and 17 and will submit a plan to the Board in the fall. Plans for a practice management training program are also in the works. Surveys of members will be utilized in the planning.

VI. Governmental Affairs Report

Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Berkley Schwarz and Legislative Counsel Brad Lampley provided a report on the 2019 legislative session and recent developments after the close of the session. All of the TBA bills passed. Details regarding those and other legislation of interest were set out in Tab 2 of the materials and were discussed.

Brad noted the controversies surrounding the Speaker of the House and his staff, culminating in his stated plan to step down as Speaker effective August 2. Six legislators have expressed interest in replacing him. The big picture effects on the 2020 session will be more change because there is a new governor and there will be a new speaker, two new majority leaders, three new caucus chairs and a new committee structure. Berkley noted that the legislative session will be covered in detail during the Convention CLE session on Friday.

Berkley also outlined the process for section submission of proposed legislation for review. Proposed legislation will be brought to the HOD for consideration at the fall meeting.

VI. Announcements

Speaker Jim Cartiglia announced that the next meeting of HOD will be Friday, September 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tennessee Bar Center in Nashville. The next HOD meeting will be held at the Bar Center on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The HOD will meet in conjunction with the TBA Leadership Conference on April 3, 2020 at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel and on June 17, 2020 in conjunction with the TBA Annual Convention in Knoxville.

VII. Adjournment

After the work of the HOD was completed for this meeting, upon motion made with no opposition, the HOD was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Knight Griffin
Secretary