

TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING  
FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M. CDT  
TENNESSEE BAR CENTER, NASHVILLE

**I. Call to Order:**

The House of Delegates (HOD) of the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) convened its regular meeting on Friday, March 29, 2019 at The Tennessee Bar Center, in Nashville. Speaker Jim Cartiglia opened the meeting at 10:00 A.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	Harrison McIver
Rebecca Blair – Telephone	Bryce McKenzie – Telephone
Jim Cartiglia	Marcia McMurray
Doug Collins – Telephone	Norman Newton
Lisa Cothron	Jennifer Noe
Jamie Durrett – Telephone	Steve Ogle – Telephone
Nicole Grida – Telephone	Jane Powers
John Holt	Andy Roskind – Telephone
Tim Housholder	Walt Schuler
Meredith Humbert	Ewing Sellers – Telephone
Paul Hutcherson – Telephone	Jonathan Steen
Charlotte Knight Griffin	Graham Swafford
Nina Kumar – Telephone	Tim Takacs - Telephone
John LaBar – Telephone	Ed Townsend – Telephone
Melanie Lane – Telephone	Charlie Trotter
Neil McBride – Telephone	Matthew Willis - Telephone
Weber McCraw - Telephone	Randy Womack - Telephone

TOTAL: 34 members, constituting a quorum.

Also present were: President Jason Pannu, Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson, Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Berkley Schwarz, Legislative Counsel Clayton Byrd, and Executive Assistant Karen Belcher.

## **II. Minutes of the January 18, 2019 HOD Meeting:**

The minutes of the January 18, 2019 HOD meeting were presented and approved upon motion without reading.

## **III. Speaker's Report:**

Speaker Jim Cartiglia reported that the Board of Governors approved two HOD legislative proposals regarding an amendment of T.C.A. § 66-21-108 drafted by the TBA's Construction Law Section and legislation drafted by the TBA filed as SB719/HB854 to deal with concerns raised by the TBA Juvenile & Children's Law Section.

He also reported that the Board responded favorably to a request from the HOD for access to Board minutes and noted that the most recent minutes were included in the HOD agenda packet.

The Board also responded favorably to the HOD suggestion that the annual Leadership Conference be moved to a date later in the year and will be moving that conference to April 3/4, 2020. The HOD meeting will be moved to January 31, 2020.

## **IV. Executive Director's Report:**

Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson reported that Proof Branding has been hired by the TBA to work on changes to the logo which will be rolled out at the TBA Convention in June. TBA staff are working on several other initiatives including consideration of a TBA health plan and a redesign of member content on the TBA web site.

She reported that ballots close for the TBA elections on Monday, April 1, 2019, with results expected the following day.

Graham Swafford asked about the status of the AOC study. Jonathan Steen reported that the AOC is gathering data from Court Clerks in Davidson, Knox and Shelby counties and five rural counties. The next committee meeting is scheduled in May. Neil McBride was recognized for a point of order since this topic is not related to the Executive Director's Report.

## **V. Governmental Affairs Report:**

Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Berkley Schwarz introduced Macayla Heath, a TBA intern who is in her second year at Belmont Law School, and Legislative Counsel Clayton Byrd.

She discussed the status of the legislative matters set out in Tab 3 of the materials including an update on State budget funding for indigent representation and the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force. TBA leadership will be educating the Governor's office on the importance of increased funding, the elimination of caps and action on other recommendations of the task force.

Jonathan Steen encouraged all HOD members to join LAW PAC.

## **VI. TBA President's Report**

Jason Pannu reported that he had attended the investiture of the Hon. Mark Norris on the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He will also be attending the ABA Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. which will focus on funding for legal services and student loan forgiveness.

He advised the HOD that the TBA is in the final stages of a rebranding effort with a "soft rollout" of the new logo planned for the Annual Convention in June. They are also working on a technology push designed for solo and small firm practitioners.

## **VII. Announcements**

Lisa Cothron made a motion to adopt a policy that upon the death of an existing or former member of the HOD, that the death be acknowledged and a contribution be made to a charity or flowers sent in honor of their service. Neil McBride suggested a friendly amendment making the contribution to a charity identified by the family. The motion, as amended, was seconded by Harrison McIver and passed unanimously. It was noted that there is no budget for this purpose, so this would have to be done by means of a collection from HOD members.

Lisa Cothron made a motion for the HOD to request consideration by the Board of Governors to create an award in the name of Claudia Jack to recognize one person from each of the three grand divisions selected from members who have been in practice for at least five years and who have accepted at least ten appointments per year. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Steen. Jane Powers proposed an amendment to the motion, which was accepted, that the award honor one private practitioner and one public defender. The motion, as amended, passed.

Lisa Cothron requested demographic information about the TBA membership. Joycelyn Stevenson reported that the TBA has some information regarding gender, age, location, practice areas and firm size, but it is very incomplete because it is voluntarily provided, and the information is not available for general release. At Lisa Cothron's request, the Executive Director will contact the AOC about whether they could do a survey.

Speaker Jim Cartiglia announced that the next HOD meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel during the TBA Annual Convention. The fall meeting will be held at the Tennessee Bar Center on September 6, 2019. Thereafter, the HOD

will meet at the Tennessee Bar Center on January 31, 2020 and at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel on April 3, 2020 in conjunction with the TBA Leadership Conference.

### **VIII. 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