

TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M. CST
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, January 31, 2020 at The Tennessee Bar Center, in Nashville. Speaker Jim Cartiglia opened the meeting at 10:00 A.M. CST and introduced two new HOD members Andy Wampler from Kingsport and Debra House from Knoxville.

Secretary Charlotte Knight Griffin called the roll. The following members were present in person or on the telephone via conference call:

Shauna Billingsley - Telephone	Marcia McMurray
Robert Bratcher - Telephone	Timothy Mickel - Telephone
Jim Cartiglia	Jennifer Noe
Eve Charlesworth - Telephone	Mark Raines - Telephone
Lisa Cothron	Andy Roskind - Telephone
Kasey Culbreath - Telephone	Walt Schuler
Jamie Durrett - Telephone	Ewing Sellers
Will Gibbons - Telephone	Ross Smith
David Goudie	Theresa-Vay Smith
Charlotte Knight Griffin	Jonathan Steen
Charlie High	Arnold Stulce - Telephone
John Holt - Telephone	Graham Swafford
Debra House - Telephone	Ed Townsend - Telephone
Meredith Humbert	Charlie Trotter
Elizabeth Hutton - Telephone	Pat Vital - Telephone
John LaBar - Telephone	Andy Wampler
Melanie Lane	Matt Willis - Telephone
Jerry Martin - Telephone	Randy Womack - Telephone
Harrison McIver - Telephone	Debbie Zimmerle - Telephone
Bryce McKenzie - Telephone	

TOTAL: 39 members, constituting a quorum.

Also present were: President Sarah Sheppard, Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson, Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs Berkley Schwarz, Legislative Counsel Brad Lampley, and Executive Assistant Karen Belcher.

II. Minutes of the September 6, 2019 HOD Meeting:

The minutes of the September 6, 2019 HOD meeting were presented and approved upon motion without reading with one correction.

III. TBA President's Report

President Sarah Sheppard reported on highlights of TBA this year. CLE has been very successful, with the annual Health Law Forum beating attendance records. The Bench Book and the Solo in A Box Tool Kit have both been updated. The TBA has put on twelve Court Square programs, launched a podcast network with five channels and hosted its second annual Public Service Academy. She also noted the launch of the health insurance program. While the numbers were somewhat smaller than the TBA hoped, they represent a great start with 300 members and 67 law firm members.

IV. Speaker's Report

Speaker Jim Cartiglia reported that a copy of the June Board of Governors meeting minutes were included in Tab 4 of the Agenda packet. He provided a summary of the September meeting of the Board. He has appointed a nominating committee to nominate members for officer positions for election at the HOD annual meeting. He is also forming a committee to review HOD rules. If members have suggestions for possible revisions or would like to serve on this committee, they should let him know.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joycelyn Stevenson reported that the new member website and database were launched last week. Mindy Thomas created a video that walks members through the website. There will be more training coming regarding use of the e-communities section.

She provided an update on activities of the Strategic Planning Committee and outlined the four main goals outlined and approved by the Board of Governors at their meeting in September. They are (1) helping members be the best they can be in practice and their lives; (2) serving as the leading non-partisan voice for the Bar; (3) facilitating access to justice and public understanding; and (4) effectively using governance staff and finances. Several smaller groups within the Committee have been formed to move forward with details related to individual goals.

She also reported that a small group has been formed to analyze the TBA building space and member needs. They will be working with Colliers on this project and considering options of staying, renovating, or moving somewhere else. She invited thoughts and opinions from HOD members.

She advised the HOD that the proposed Claudia Jack award was approved by the Board of Governors and provided details. The award will be announced during the annual convention at the Lawyers Luncheon and the intent is to make the first award this year.

VI. Report and Recommendations from Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility

This report was taken out of order to accommodate Committee Chair Brian Faughnan who was attending by telephone. He reviewed highlights of the Committee report attached to the agenda materials as Tab 3 and requested approval of the committee recommendations. Charlie High made a motion which was seconded and passed with no objections.

VII. Governmental Affairs Report

Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs Berkley Schwarz provided an overview of the materials attached as Tab 2. She noted the bill filing deadline on February 5, 2020 and the committee structure. Indigent representation reform remains the big issue for the TBA. She noted that proposed budget will have an impact.

Also tied to the budget is the move to eliminate the professional privilege tax. The TBA is working with a coalition of other groups on this legislation and the day-on-the-hill is scheduled for February 11, 2020. Talking points were included in the materials. Legislative Counsel Brad Lampley reiterated the need for members to support this TBA effort and contact their legislators.

VIII. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se Divorce Forms

Committee Chair Jonathan Steen provided an update on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se Divorce Forms. The Committee has assisted the AOC in preparing requests for information that were circulated to Clerks offices last spring. The Committee also assisted in developing a survey that was also emailed to the trial judges and also provided at the Judicial Conference. The survey is also going to the General Sessions judges with domestic jurisdiction and results will be added to the information already collected. The AOC is compiling all of the information collected. When that report is complete it will be provided to the Committee and shared with the HOD. He shared a link to the Tennessee Court forms and publications, but copies of the forms were provided as part of Tab 5 along with an email from Anne-Louise Wirthlin and a copy of the survey. Also included in Tab 5 were copies of letters from Graham Swafford to Sarah Sheppard and Judge Donald Elledge, and a letter from Judge Elledge to Mr. Swafford.

After much discussion, it was noted that the initial data from the Clerks indicated not many forms were being used. Jonathan noted that the Committee needs data to persuade the Supreme Court to make any change.

X. Announcements

Speaker Cartiglia reviewed the list of upcoming meetings of the HOD included in the Agenda.

XI. 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