

**ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 2, 2020**

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on December 2, 2020, via video teleconference, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on November 20, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by board chair Shannon Ball, with the following board members in attendance: Shannon Ball, Jennifer Egbe, Linda Flippo, Parian Holderfield, Judge Claude Hundley, Alan Peacock, and Margaret Turner. Ms. Ball noted the presence of a quorum. Also present were Mark Wilkerson and Kristen Beavers, board counsel, of the law firm of Wilkerson & Bryan, Victor Biebighauser, ABCR executive director, Ashley Dickey with the Alabama Court Reporters Association, Spencer Waddell, of the law firm Gregory Varner & Associates, and Madison Brinkman.

Ms. Ball brought up the draft minutes of the April 24, 2020, meeting for the board's consideration. On motion made by Mr. Peacock, and seconded by Ms. Turner, the minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Ball welcomed the board members, participants, and guests, and introduced the rest of the agenda. She introduced Mr. Biebighauser, the new ABCR executive director, and, at her invitation, he gave the board a brief summary of his background, and stated he was looking forward to working with the board in this capacity.

Ms. Ball then invited Mr. Wilkerson to provide a legal counsel's report. Mr. Wilkerson reminded the board that an emergency administrative services agreement had been executed with Mr. Biebighauser for management of the board's operations, while the board worked on options for a long-term resolution. He then invited the board's attention to the proposed consent order in the case of Madison Brinkman, summarized the circumstances of the case, and noted that the order had been accepted by Ms. Brinkman and her attorneys, Mr. Waddell and Mr. Greg Varner. Mr. Wilkerson recommended that the board approve the order. Mr. Waddell made a few comments about the case as well. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve the consent order was made by Ms. Flippo, seconded by Mr. Peacock, and unanimously adopted.

Under new business, Mr. Peacock asked about the legislative status of the board's proposed housekeeping legislation to amend the code. Ms. Ball stated that action on the bill had not

Alabama Board of Court Reporting  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2020

occurred in the 2020 legislative session as a result of the abbreviated session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Ball indicated this bill would be introduced again in the 2021 legislative session. Mr. Peacock also brought up that he had seen advertising by a court reporting firm for remote digital reporters, which is illegal in Alabama. After discussion, the board agreed that initiation of an inquiry and investigation was warranted.

Ms. Flippo brought up license renewals, with some reporters stating that they had not received notice of the renewal process, the difficulty some reporters were having securing replacement licenses, and that the lack of a board telephone number was diverting some calls to board members. Ms. Ball explained the current issues with updating the database through Alabama Interactive, and that she and Mr. Biebighauser were trying to get some resolution to that. Mr. Biebighauser advised the board that he was in the process of securing a state cell phone, and once the phone was received the assigned number would be posted on the public web site. Calls to the number would be answered directly by him, or would go to a voice mail where a caller could leave call-back information. Mr. Peacock suggested that licensed reporters receive a wallet-sized certificate that they could produce as needed. After further discussion, Ms. Ball appointed Mr. Peacock and Ms. Turner as a committee to look into this subject.

There being no further business to come before, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted to adjourn the meeting.

Shannon Ball  
Shannon Ball, Chair

05/07/2021  
Date