

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on March 10, 2022, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on February 17, 2022. The meeting was held at the Administrative Office of Courts in Montgomery.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Board vice chair Parian Tidwell, with the following Board members in attendance: Parian Tidwell, Claude Hundley, Mary King, Alan Peacock, and Margaret Turner. Board members Linda Flippo and Dylan Marsh were absent. Ms. Tidwell noted the presence of a quorum. Also present were Mark Wilkerson, Board counsel, of the law firm of Wilkerson & Bryan, and Victor Biebighauser, ABCR executive director.

Ms. Tidwell recognized new Board member Mary King, who had recently been appointed by Gov. Ivey to replace Shannon Ball, whose term had expired. At Ms. Tidwell's direction, Mr. Biebighauser administered the oath of office to Ms. King.

Mr. Rich Hobson, administrative director of the AOC, was recognized by Mr. Biebighauser as a guest and was thanked for the use of the board room for the meeting. Mr. Hobson welcomed the Board and made a few remarks about the importance of court reporters to the Alabama court system.

Ms. Tidwell brought up the draft minutes of the July 1, 2021, meeting for the Board's consideration. On motion made by Ms. Turner and seconded by Judge Hundley, the minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Tidwell then referred the Board to the agenda item for election of officers for 2022. On motion made by Ms. Turner and seconded by Mr. Peacock, Ms. Tidwell was elected chair. On motion made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Turner, Mr. Peacock was elected vice chair. On motion made by Mr. Peacock and seconded by Ms. King, Ms. Turner was elected secretary.

Ms. Tidwell then invited Mr. Wilkerson to provide a legal counsel's report. Mr. Wilkerson began by advising the Board that it needed to retain a qualified individual who would be available on short notice to serve as an administrative law judge in the event of any disciplinary cases that might go to a formal administrative hearing. The last contract the board had expired on December 31, 2019. Mr. Wilkerson recommended attorney James Hampton for this position. The appointment would be for a two-year period at the standard hourly rate with an aggregate maximum as specified by the Board. Mr. Wilkerson noted that the Board historically has very few disciplinary cases that go to formal hearings, and that the actual expense associated with the contract should be minimal. Mr. Wilkerson also noted that the contract would have to be submitted to the legislative contract review committee and signed by the governor in accordance with required procedures. After discussion, upon motion made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Turner, the Board approved the proposed contract for Mr. Hampton.

On motion made, seconded, and unanimously adopted, the Board next voted to enter an executive session at 11:05 a.m. to discuss matters involving general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, and mental health of individuals subject to the disciplinary

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jurisdiction of this Board. The Board resumed public session at 1:05 p.m. and took up various proposed consent orders. On motion made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Turner, the disposition of Case #1 was approved. On motion made by Ms. Turner and seconded by Mr. Peacock, the disposition of Case #2 was approved. On motion made by Mr. Peacock and seconded by Ms. Turner, the disposition of Case #3 was approved. On motion made by Judge Hundley and seconded by Ms. King, the disposition of Case #4 was approved. Ms. Tidwell noted that summaries of these cases and their dispositions would be posted on the Board's web site.

Mr. Biebighauser gave the Board an administrative report, including license activity since September 30, 2021, an update on the preliminary budget for FY2023, and progress with Alabama OIT on a new public web site for the Board. Related to license renewals for 2022-2023, the Board discussed offering wallet-size license certificates in addition to the standard 8½" x 11" certificates. Mr. Biebighauser indicated he would follow up with OIT and Alabama Interactive to inquire how this would be done in conjunction with a possible outside vendor.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Turner, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Parian Tidwell, Chair



Date