

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on June 7, 2022, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on May 24, 2022. The meeting was held at the Administrative Office of Courts in Montgomery.

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Board chair Parian Tidwell, with the following Board members in attendance: Parian Tidwell, Mary King, Dylan Marsh, Alan Peacock, and Margaret Turner. Board members Jennifer Egbe and Claude Hundley 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. ACCRs Stacey Elliott and Mary Heinfeld were present as observers. Staff from the Alabama Office of Information Technology, Aaron Wright, Brannon Evans and Mike Walz were in attendance for a presentation on the new public web site.

Ms. Tidwell brought up the draft minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting for the Board's consideration. On motion made by Ms. King and seconded by Ms. Turner, the minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Tidwell then referred the Board to the agenda item for the new web site. Mr. Biebighauser introduced the topic and gave the Board members some background on the subject and where we stood on the project. He then introduced Mr. Wright, Mr. Evans and Mr. Walz, who gave the Board a presentation on the test web site and answered questions by the Board on content and navigation of the site. Following the presentation and questions, the OIT representatives summarized a list of follow-up items for both parties. Ms. Tidwell thanked the guests for attending. At that point the OIT representatives departed the meeting.

Ms. Tidwell recognized ACCR Stacey Elliott for purposes of addressing the Board. Mr. Elliott shared with the Board his general concerns about the Board's process for determining disciplinary actions, and consistency of discipline, as well as his concerns about a specific case the Board had adjudicated at its previous meeting. Following Mr. Elliott's remarks and some questions from the board members, Ms. Tidwell thanked Mr. Elliott for coming to the Board meeting and sharing his views.

Ms. Tidwell referred the Board to the agenda item related to the engagement of an administrative law judge to handle any administrative hearings that the Board might need to conduct. Mr. Biebighauser reported that a contract with attorney James Hampton had been approved by the legislative contract review committee and signed by the governor for a two-year term covering 2022-2024. On a related matter, Mr. Biebighauser briefed the Board on his preliminary discussions with the Alabama Real Estate Commission for an inter-agency agreement under which AREC would provide an investigator as needed by the Board on a pro-rated hourly basis.

On motion made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Marsh, and unanimously adopted, the Board next voted to enter an executive session at 12:05 p.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.

On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the Board resumed public session at 1:30 p.m. and took up proposed revisions to the Board's Rules & Regulations. After discussion, on motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Peacock, and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the proposed revisions, with one wording change, for publication and public comment.

Based on the schedule for public comment on the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations, the Board set the date for the next meeting and public hearing for August 10, 2022.

Under new business, Ms. Tidwell brought up a help wanted advertisement being run for digital reporters by a private reporting agency. Since digital reporting is not permitted in Alabama, Ms. Tidwell directed Mr. Biebighauser to send a letter to the agency calling its attention to this fact.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



Parian Tidwell, Chair

8/10/22
Date