

**ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 10, 2022**

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on August 10, 2022, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on June 23, 2022. The meeting was held at the Administrative Office of Courts in Montgomery.

The meeting was called to order at 10:53 a.m. by Board chair Parian Tidwell, with the following Board members in attendance: Parian Tidwell, Jennifer Egbe, Claude Hundley, Mary King, Alan Peacock, and Margaret Turner. Board member Dylan Marsh was 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. There were 11 members of the public in attendance as observers and/or to address the board in the scheduled public hearing.

Ms. Tidwell brought up the draft minutes of the June 7, 2022, meeting for the Board's consideration. On motion made by Ms. Turner and seconded by Ms. King, the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Ms. Tidwell welcomed new board member Jennifer Egbe. Mr. Biebighauser administered the oath of office to Ms. Egbe.

Ms. Tidwell then recognized Mr. Biebighauser for the executive director's report. Mr. Biebighauser referred the Board to his written summary and provided elaboration on some of the items, including that the FY2023 had been completed and submitted to the Executive Budget Office, the Board's new public web site went live on July 22, and the initial tranche of license renewal notifications had been released on August 1. With respect to the latter, Mr. Biebighauser advised the Board that due to a glitch with the transmittals only 34% of the renewal notices may have been delivered to the intended recipients. Mr. Biebighauser informed the Board that he had been working with the Alabama Office of Information Technology, which executed the notification release, and was awaiting an explanation from OIT as to what had happened and what the fix would be. Mr. Biebighauser also noted that the license certificates the renewing reporters received, or would receive, included both the printable standard size certificate and a printable wallet size version.

Ms. Tidwell recognized Board counsel Mr. Wilkerson for the general counsel's report. On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the Board voted to enter an executive session at 11:20 a.m. to discuss matters involving general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, and mental health of individuals subject to the jurisdiction of this Board, and pending or imminently likely litigation involving the Board, as certified by Mr. Wilkerson.

On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the Board resumed public session at 12:04 p.m. Ms. Tidwell then recessed the Board meeting for purposes of conducting the public hearing with respect to the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations, Chapter 257-X-1-.06(5)(a), Chapter 257-X-3-.02(2)(3)(4), and Chapter 257-X-7 Appendix I. Upon conclusion of the public hearing, Ms. Tidwell reconvened the Board meeting.

The Board then addressed each section of the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations, and discussion ensued about each section individually.

On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the revisions to Chapter 257-X-1-.06 as proposed and published.

On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the revision to Chapter 257-X-7 Appendix I as proposed and published.

Further discussion ensued relative to Chapter 257-X-3-.02(2)(3)(4). Following discussion and questions among the Board members the following actions were taken.

On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the proposed Chapters 257-X-3-.02(2) and (4) were amended as follows:

Chapter 257-X-3-.02(2)

1. In line 5, delete the word "such" and replace with the word "any," and after the word "other" insert "non-NCRA approved."
2. In line 6, delete the words "establishing that its program is equivalent to those receiving NCRA approval."
3. After the preceding sentence as amended, add the following sentence "Applicants may also seek recognition of a program under this Section."
4. In line 10, following the words "steno theory," add the words "or voice writing theory."
5. In line 11, add the word "and" in front of the word "punctuation," place a period after "punctuation," and delete the words "and an internship component."

Chapter 257-X-3-.02(4)


1. In line 1, after "(RPR)," add the words "or NVRA certified reporter (CVR)."
2. In line 6, after "attorneys," add the words "or two currently licensed Alabama court reporters," within the sentence.

Following these changes, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the proposed revisions to Chapter 257-X-3-.02(2)(3)(4) were approved as amended.

Under new business, Mr. Biebighauser advised the board that a draft inter-agency agreement with the Alabama Real Estate Commission (AREC) for use of investigator services had been prepared and a copy was included as an agenda item. The draft agreement had been provided to AREC and discussions were underway as to details. After some discussion, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the draft agreement was approved as to content pending decision by AREC. Mr. Biebighauser also shared with the Board the latest iteration of FAQs for the web site and advised that the FAQs would be included on the web site if there were no objections.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Mr. Peacock, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

  
Parian Tidwell, Chair

  
Date