

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2024

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on October 23, 2024, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on October 3, 2024. The meeting was held at the Administrative Office of Courts, Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 am by Board chair Margaret Turner, with the following Board members in attendance: Jennifer Egbe, Claude Hundley, Mary King, Dylan Marsh, and Parian Tidwell. Ms. Turner noted the presence of a quorum. Also present were Victor Biebighauser, ABCR executive director, and Mark Wilkerson, Board counsel, of the law firm Wilkerson & Bryan. There was one member of the public in attendance as an observer.

Ms. Turner brought up the draft minutes of the January 18, 2024, meeting for the Board's consideration. There was discussion about the proper wording in two paragraphs of the draft minutes. On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Mr. Marsh, and unanimously adopted, the reference to the reason for Ms. Tidwell's non-participation in the votes on licensee disciplinary actions was amended, and the reference to Ms. Tidwell in the paragraph on digital transcripts was removed. On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Judge Hundley, and unanimously adopted, the minutes were approved as amended.

Ms. Turner recognized Mr. Wilkerson for the legal counsel report. Mr. Wilkerson reviewed with the Board draft proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations and the statute. During the review of the Rules & Regulations, board members suggested various edits to the draft that were noted by Mr. Wilkerson. It was also suggested that the Board investigate with Alabama Interactive and Alabama OIT the feasibility of offering online payment options for fees other than the annual licensing renewal fee. Mr. Biebighauser stated that he would pursue that. After additional discussion, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the Board approved for publication the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations as amended and subject to resolution of the online fee payment option. Mr. Wilkerson then moved on to proposed revisions to the statute. After discussion among the members, the consensus was that the Board not move forward with revisions to the statute at this time.

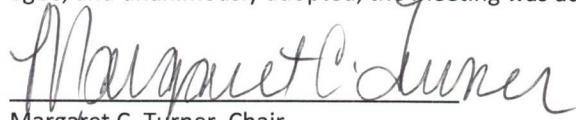
Ms. Turner called a recess at 12:25 pm and the Board reconvened at 12:42 pm.

Ms. Turner then brought up an issue with regard to a licensee. Mr. Wilkerson recommended that the Board enter executive session for reasons allowable by law, specifically to discuss the professional competence and reputation of an individual. On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the Board went into executive session at approximately 12:30 pm. Following the executive session, on motion made by Ms. Egbe, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the Board resumed public session at approximately 12:50 pm.

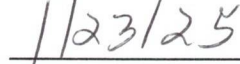
Ms. Turner then recognized Mr. Biebighauser for new business, and he covered several items with the Board. 1) The FY26 budget request has been completed and submitted to the Executive Budget Office. 2) Legislation is likely to be introduced in the 2025 legislative session purporting to reform licensing boards and commissions in light of deficiencies identified at several high-profile boards by the Examiners and the Sunset Committee. 3) There are currently 364 licensees who have renewed with 19 licensed reporters who have not renewed. Renewals are continuing to trickle in after the first past-due reminder was sent out three weeks ago. Mr. Biebighauser stated that he would send another e-mail reminder on or about October 31 and then in November would start calling remaining non-renewed licensees.

Mr. Biebighauser noted that the Board would need to meet in January to elect officers for 2025 and to offer a public hearing on the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations. The Board agreed that a meeting should be held immediately prior to the ACRA annual meeting in Birmingham scheduled for January 24-25. It was agreed that the Board meeting should be scheduled for Thursday, January 23.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.



Margaret C. Turner, Chair



Date