

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2025

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on January 23, 2025, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on November 25, 2024. The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order at 2:52 pm by Board chair Margaret Turner, with the following Board members in attendance: Shannon Ball, Ashley Dickey, Jennifer Egbe, and Alan Peacock. 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.

Ms. Turner brought up the draft minutes of the October 23, 2024, meeting for the Board's consideration. On motion made by Ms. Egbe, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Turner welcomed newly appointed board members Shannon Ball and Ashley Dickey. Mr. Biebighauser administered the oaths of office to Ms. Ball and Ms. Dickey.

Ms. Turner opened the meeting for election of officers for 2025. On motion made by Ms. Ball, seconded by Ms. Dickey, and unanimously adopted, Ms. Turner was elected chair. On motion made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, Ms. Ball was elected vice chair. On motion made by Ms. Egbe, seconded by Ms. Ball, and unanimously adopted, Ms. Dickey was elected secretary.

Ms. Turner recognized Board counsel Mr. Wilkerson for the legal counsel's report. Mr. Wilkerson reported that there were no disciplinary matters for the Board to consider at this meeting. Mr. Wilkerson made brief remarks about other relevant matters.

Ms. Turner then recessed the meeting to enter a public hearing for any comments relating to the proposed revisions to the Board's Rules & Regulations that had been published. There being no individuals present wishing to address the Board, the public hearing was concluded, and the meeting was resumed.

Mr. Wilkerson summarized the proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations and explained how the proposals would streamline certain processes and conform to the Open Meetings Act. After discussion and questions by the Board members, on motion made by Ms. Ball, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the revisions to the Rules & Regulations as proposed were adopted.

Ms. Turner then recognized Mr. Biebighauser for several items of new business. Mr. Biebighauser advised the board that the appointment letters for Ms. Ball and Ms. Dickey did not precisely conform to the expectations of the Examiners with respect to term dates as indicated in the legal compliance report on the Board in 2024, despite the best efforts of the Board and of the nominating party, ACRA. Mr. Biebighauser reported that he had been in contact with the Examiners about this and had furnished copies of ACRA's nominating letters and the letters from the appointing authorities to show that the Board and ACRA had made their best efforts to ensure that the term dates were correct. The term dates for the reappointment of Mr. Marsh were correct. Mr. Biebighauser reported that the Examiners were not seeking any further information from the Board on this matter. Mr. Biebighauser updated the Board on the continued progress on the new database with OIT. Mr. Biebighauser also advised the Board that he had begun working with OIT and the contractor, Tyler Technology, about the process of allowing electronic

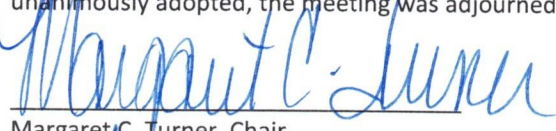
ABCR Meeting Minutes

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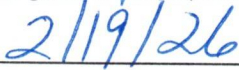
Page 2

submission of application forms and payment of requisite fees online, similar to the process for license renewals. In the process of that, it had been noted that some information collected on application forms did not have corresponding fields in the database, leading to the question of whether the Board wanted to eliminate information requested on the applications or continue to collect such information with the understanding that it would not be reflected in the database. After discussion and questions, the Board requested Mr. Biebighauser to mark-up the application questions accordingly and circulate to the Board. Mr. Biebighauser also updated the Board on possible legislation in the 2025 session directed to boards and commissions, based on Examiners and Sunset Committee reviews over the last year that had been highly publicized. No proposed legislation had been pre-filed yet, but something was expected to be forthcoming.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Ms. Ball, seconded by Ms. Egbe, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.



Margaret C. Turner, Chair



Date