

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

**Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
Tucson, Arizona**

June 23, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Samuel J. Saks, President, Tempe; Doreen N. McPaul, President-Elect, Gilbert; Kelsi Lane, Vice President, Tempe; D. Christopher Russell, Secretary-Treasurer, Sierra Vista; J. Damon Ashcraft, Phoenix; Rebecca Baker, Phoenix; Heather Baker-Mushkatel, Sun City; Dean Angela Banks, ASU; Dave K. Byers, At-Large Member, Scottsdale; Cedric Dave, Public Member, Chandler; Jena Decker-Xu, Phoenix; Russell Duerksen, Chino Valley; Louis S. Fidel, Tucson; Denis M. Fitzgibbons, Casa Grande; Amy P. Hernandez, Tucson; Mignonne Hollis, Public Member, Sierra Vista; David J. Johns, Flagstaff; Dean Jason Kreag, Ex-Officio Member, UofA; Justice Kathryn King, Supreme Court Liaison, Phoenix; Jack Lunsford, Phoenix; Robert J. McWhirter, Phoenix; Preston L. Pollock, Globe; Rachel Romaniuk, YLD President, Chandler; David B. Rosenbaum, Phoenix; Thomas Ryan, Chandler; Ted Schmidt, Tucson; Cortez W. Smith, Public Member, Casa Grande.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Mary Helen Maley Maynard, Santa Cruz; Chloé R. Woods, Phoenix.

ABSENT: John W. Graham, Scottsdale; Jimmie Dee Smith, Yuma

STAFF: Joel England, Chief Executive Officer; Noah Coakley, Chief of Staff & Director of Community Impact; Deanna Commack, Executive Assistant; Tim Eigo, Chief Communications Officer; Jessica Fotinos, General Counsel; Jessica Iennarella, Chief Financial Officer; Caitlin Kelly, Program Coordinator; Trish McCarty, Human Resources Director; Lori Maxwell, Chief Information Officer; Amy Rehm, Deputy Chief Bar Counsel; Patricia Seguin, Legal Services Manager; Roberta Tepper, Chief Member Services Officer; Maret Vessella, Chief Bar Counsel.

1. Call to Order - Sam Saks

~~President Saks~~ President Saks called the Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Call to the Public - Sam Saks

President Saks made a Call to the Public and hearing nothing, moved on to the next item on the agenda.

3. CEO's Report – Joel England

- Thanked State Bar staff Patricia Seguin, Caitlin Kelly, and Maggie Duran.
- Welcomed Angela Banks, Interim Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University
- Legal Professional Wellness Program MOU Signed
- State Bar's Public Service Center NABE Award (in Chicago)
 - Awarded for outstanding service to the community. Noah Coakley, Tim Eigo, and Fabiola Perez will accept the award on the Bar's behalf during the Annual NABE Conference.
- Supreme Court Swearing-In Ceremony
 - Admissions ceremony took place at the Arizona Supreme Court on June 22nd. Thirty-three new attorneys were sworn in.

4. Nominating Committee/Election of Officers – Ted Schmidt

- Robert McWhirter/Louis Fidel

MOTION to suspend the Bylaws made by Christopher Russell
Seconded by David Rosenbaum
Motion passed

MOTION to go into Executive Session made by Cedric Dave
Seconded by Mignonne Hollis
Motion passed

Executive Session

- The Board discussed the candidates for Secretary/Treasurer.

MOTION to end the Executive Session and return to Regular Session made by
Christopher Russell
Seconded by Kelsi Lane
Motion passed

Regular Meeting resumed at 1:33 p.m.

MOTION to elect Kelsi Lane as the incoming President-Elect made by Doreen McPaul
Seconded by Mignonne Hollis
Motion passed

MOTION to elect Christopher Russell as the incoming Vice President made by Denis
Fitzgibbons
Seconded by Cedric Dave
Motion passed

Secret ballot for Secretary/Treasurer vote:

Robert McWhirter = 10 Louis Fidel = 14

With Louis Fidel receiving the majority of votes, he will serve as the incoming
Secretary/Treasurer

5. Consent Agenda – Sam Saks

- President Saks asked if there were any matters that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda.
 - a) Approval of Resignations in Good Standing
 - ~~b) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with Annual Membership Fees and/or Rule 43, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.)~~
 - c) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with MCLE Requirements (Rule 45, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.)

- d) Suspension of Members for Non-Payment of 2026 Membership Fee
- e) May 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda made by Christopher Russell
Seconded by Rachel Romaniuk
Motion passed

6. Policy Working Group – Rebecca Baker

- Presented on the following policies:
 - a) Secretarial Support to Bar President Policy

MOTION to approve and adopt the revised policy made by Jack Lunsford
Seconded by Cedric Dave
Motion passed

- b) Program Review Policy

MOTION to approve and adopt the revised policy made by Jack Lunsford
Seconded by Cortez Smith
Motion passed

- c) Year in Review – Status Update
 - Jessica Fotinos provided an update on the annual stats.

BREAK: 1:46 p.m. to 2:12 p.m.

7. Rules Review Committee – David Johns

- Presented on the following proposals:
 - a) Proposed New Jury Instruction and Updates to Current Criminal Jury Instructions
 - The proposals generally fall into three categories: updates reflecting recent statutory amendments, revisions incorporating recent appellate decisions, and new instructions addressing offenses for which no model instruction currently exists.
 - The package also adds new instructions addressing criminal liability for the conduct of another, causing death by moving violation, child sex doll offenses, unlawful transaction involving detached catalytic converters, and unlawful foreign law enforcement activity.

MOTION to approve the proposed revised new criminal jury instructions so moved by David Rosenbaum
Seconded by Thomas Ryan
Motion passed

- b) Request for Authorization for Executive Council to Approve Replies in Pending Family Law Rule Petitions

- Extension to file reply by June 30, 2026.

MOTION to authorize the Executive Council to review and approve both replies for filings made by Cedric Dave

Seconded by J. Damon Ashcraft

Motion passed

8. Practice Readiness Task Force (f.k.a. Young Lawyer Bridge Task Force Recommendations)

– Doreen McPaul

- 15-hour CLE program. Need to determine what else the State Bar can do to help new lawyers
- There is good framework
- Roberta is instrumental in the work of the Task Force

MOTION to approve the report and recommendation and authorize the creation of a working group to implement these recommendations so moved by Christopher Russell.

Seconded by Rebecca Baker

Motion passed

9. Lawyer Referral Working Group Recommendations – Mignonne Hollis

- Presented an update
- Will meet with three groups and report back at the next Board meeting.

10. Legislative Update – Tim Eigo

- Legislature was in session for 156 days, it and adjourned on June 13, 2026
- Governor Hobbs vetoed SB1039; attorney discipline investigations; costs on June 19, 2026
- Significant Family/Domestic Violence legislation signed by the Governor on June 22, 2026

11. Correspondence/Reports – President Saks

- Board of Governors' – Primary Convention Events
 - Handout given

12. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members – President Saks

- President Saks gave recognition to the follow members:
 - Ted Schmidt, Board Advisor, Past President 2024-2025
 - Rachel Romaniuk, YLD President, 2025-2026
 - Mary Helen Maley Maynard, SLD President, 2025-2026
 - First SLD President to serve on Board
 - Dean Stacy Leeds, Dean of ASU College of Law

13. Recognition of Outgoing President Sam Saks on behalf of the State Bar of Arizona and the Board of Governors – CEO England

- CEO England gave recognition and thanks to President Saks on behalf of the State Bar
- Doreen McPaul appreciates following in his footsteps and thanked him
- President Saks gave remarks

14. 2026-27 Goals, Meeting Schedule, and Retreat Preview – Doreen McPaul

- Brief overview
- Training on communication
- DISC assessment
- Strategic Planning
- BLI 20-year anniversary

15. ADJOURNED at 2:42 p.m.