

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

July 18, 2025

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

BOARD MEMBERS WITH EXCUSED ABSENCES: Interim Dean Jason Kreag, Ex-Officio Member, UofA; Dean Stacy Leeds, Ex-Officio Member, ASU; Robert J. McWhirter, Phoenix; Preston L. Pollock, Globe; Chloé Woods, Phoenix; John Graham, Scottsdale.

STAFF: Joel England, CEO/Executive Director; Jessica Iennarella, Chief Financial Officer; Tim Eigo, Chief Communications Officer; Lori Maxwell, Chief Information Officer; Roberta Tepper, Chief Member Services Officer; Trish McCarty, HR Director; Lisa Panahi, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer; Maret Vessella, Chief Bar Counsel; Amy Rehm, Deputy Chief Bar Counsel; Noah Coakley, Chief of Staff & Director of Community Impact; Genna Barela, Manager of Board Operations; Deanna Commack, Executive Assistant; Riley McLaughlin, BOG Administrative Assistant, Tanner Johnson, IT Support Specialist.

GUESTS: No Guests Present.

1. Call to Order – Sam Saks

President Saks called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.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. First and Final President's Report – Sam Saks

President Saks delivered his first and final report to the Board, outlining upcoming changes to the agenda structure and meeting flow. He emphasized prioritizing substantive committee discussions and utilizing the consent agenda for routine or non-controversial items requiring unanimous approval.

President Saks proposed improvements to board documentation, including the use of executive summaries and revisions to the Board Reporting Form. He recommended starting meetings at 9:00 a.m., eliminating the President's report, placing Action Items at the beginning, and addressing key events at the end. He also emphasized the need to update Board policies and to prioritize leadership development, recruitment, and engagement with liaisons.

4. CEO's Report – Joel England

CEO England reported on efforts to strengthen collaboration with SBA staff, following discussions held during the retreat. He also provided an update on the successful CLE by the Sea convention in Coronado, California, crediting the Member Services and Communications teams for their contributions.

CEO England noted on the July Townhall held on Monday, July 14, at the State Bar of Arizona office, where President Sam Saks addressed the staff. He also highlighted recent events hosted by the National Association of Bar Executives and the National Conference of Bar Presidents. He discussed the formation of a new Arizona Supreme Court Working Group focused on efforts to revise and modernize the Supreme Court Rules.

5. Consent Agenda – Sam Saks

President Saks asked if there were any matters that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda and hearing nothing.

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda: Cedric Dave

Seconded by: Russell Duerksen

Unanimous.

- a) Approval of Resignations in Good Standing
- b) Resignations in Lieu of Reinstatement
- c) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with Annual Membership Fees and/ or Trust Account Compliance (Rule 32(c)(10) and/ or Rule 43, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.)
- d) Approval of Reinstatement of Member(s) suspended for Non-Compliance with MCLE Requirements

6. 2025-26 Goals – Sam Saks

Agenda item #6 was removed from the agenda as the matters were addressed prior to the start of the meeting.

7. Proposed Amendments to State Bar Bylaws – Sam Saks/Lisa Panahi

Sam Saks presented proposed amendments to the State Bar Bylaws, developed by himself, Lisa Panahi, and their team. The updates include revised references to Rule 32, an updated mission statement aligned with the Arizona Supreme Court, and clarification of decision-making authority for Executive Council members and Board of Governors officers. [Presented to the Board for information on June 23, 2025, following the 30-day notice rule.]

MOTION to approve the State Bar Bylaws Amendments: Cedric Dave

Seconded by: D. Chris Russell

Unanimous.

8. ABA House of Delegates & Arizona Foundation for Legal Services Board Appointment – Joel England

CEO England addressed the Board regarding the vacancies for two positions: one with the ABA House of Delegates (HOD) and the other on the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services Board. These seats were previously held by Diandra Day Benally, whose term recently ended. The Board was invited to express interest in filling these roles at the previous Board meeting on June 23rd. During the July 18th, meeting, David Rosenbaum expressed interest in the ABA HOD position, while Heather Baker-Mushkatel expressed interest in the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services Board appointment.

MOTION to appoint David Rosenbaum for the ABA House of Delegates: Dave Byers
Seconded by: Cedric Dave
Unanimous.

MOTION to appoint Heather Baker-Mushkatel for the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services: Kelsi Lane
Seconded by: Mignonne Hollis
Unanimous.

9. Finance and Audit Committee – Jessica Iennarella

Key Q2 2025 updates included planning for the Convention and CLE by the Sea, with a focus on CLE revenue considering the upcoming compliance deadline. Additional updates covered advertising sales, sponsorships, and personnel matters. Emphasis was placed on fiscal responsibility, including adherence to policies and procedures, fulfilling obligations to both members and the Arizona Supreme Court, and maintaining policies regarding capital reserve, annual fees reserve, and opportunity reserve. The Board of Governors is responsible for approving the budget and related policies.

10. Convention Report – Roberta Tepper

Roberta provided a report to the Board on the Convention, noting a total of 953 registrants, 285 faculty members, and attendance by 62 newly admitted lawyers.

The following agenda items were taken out of order.

12. Correspondence/Reports – Sam Saks

Sam shared updates on the BOG Term Limits and BOG Meeting Schedule 2025-26 Revised.

Upcoming Events: Next Board meeting is on September 26, 2025.

Sections Events:

- 2025 Workers' Compensation Conference in Sedona, AZ on 9.17 to 9.19
- Workers Compensation and Indian Law Sections will be submitting amendments to their bylaws.
- Real Property Section monthly luncheon at Seasons 52, on September 18 at 12:00 p.m.
- Family Law Section, CLE on July 18
- Construction Law CLE luncheon on September 16 at Seasons 52 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Solo & Small Firm Section will be having a social in September, date and time TBD.

11. Legal Services Update – Dave Byers

Dave Byers shared a presentation from the Arizona Judicial Council June 24th meeting, "Legal Services Delivery in Arizona." The presentation outlined ongoing efforts to expand access to legal services across Arizona by developing a tiered legal service delivery system, comparable to a healthcare model with roles ranging from legal document preparers to licensed practitioners and attorneys. The initiative responds to a significant shortage of lawyers statewide:

- Arizona ranks 49th nationally in lawyers per capita.
- 11 of 15 counties qualify as "legal deserts" (fewer than one attorney per 1,000 residents).
- 86% of low-income individuals receive little or no legal assistance.

Current legal service provider statistics include:

- 721 Legal Document Preparers
- 85 Active Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals (LPs)
- 22 Certified Community Legal Advocates (7 in domestic violence, 15 in housing)
- 132 Approved Alternative Business Structures (ABSs)
- Over 20,000 licensed attorneys
- 0 active Community Justice Workers

Additional initiatives:

- Rural Summer Internships: 10 slots filled
- ALAP (Apprentice Program): 21 active licensees, 20 pending applications
- ASU Part-Time Law School: Launching January 2026 with an inaugural class of 20 students

The overarching goal is to increase legal access through a diversified and scalable delivery model, especially in underserved rural areas.

ADJOURNED at 11:40 a.m.