

**MINUTES**  
**of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2016 (JC)**

	Present		Present
President James Griffith (JG)	X	Director Stephen Dunkle (SD)	
President- Elect Mike Denver (MD)		Director Mike Brelje (MB)	X
Secretary Officer Jeff Chambliss (JC)	X	Director Amber Holderness (AH)	X
Chief Financial Officer Amber Holderness (AH)	X	Director Travis Logue (TL)	
Past President Naomi Dewey (ND)	X	Director Nathan Rogers (NR)	
Director Emily Allen (EA)	X	Director Leticia Anguiano	
Director Eric Berg (EB)	X	Director James Sweeney (JS)	X
Director Joseph Billings (JB)	X	Director Elizabeth Vogt (EV)	
Director Elizabeth Diaz (ED)	X	Staff: Exec. Director Lida Sideris (LS)	X

**1. Call to Order – President’s Report**

The September 2016 meeting of the SBCBA Board of Directors was called to order at 5:15 p.m. President JG noted that he had to leave at 6:45pm and designated Secretary JC to preside after that.

**2. State of the SBCBA**

a. Minutes from August Meeting

The minutes for the August meeting were approved unanimously.

A member attorney had asked the Association to sponsor her attendance at a conference. Monies were not requested but the use of the Association’s name was. The Executive Committee (“Ex Comm”) asked “why” and the consensus was to refuse the request as it set a dangerous precedent and it was unclear why the attorney wanted/needed to use the Association’s endorsement.

JG is to attend the Conference of Delegates at the State Bar Convention instead of ND. JC moved, EB 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously.

LS gave an update on the Association website and reported that the two previous bidders dropped out or were otherwise unacceptable. LS recommended going with FatEyes.com for \$5000.00, no monthly fees and \$250 to \$300 a year in maintenance. ND moved, AH 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously.

b. Financial Report

JS distributed a chart “SBCBA Historical Finances” showing the Bar’s overall financial condition over time. The Board then continued its multi meeting discussion about the

state of the Association's finances and what if any reserves should be maintained. JG researched the reserve policies of similarly sized Bar Associations (650 members of SBCBA, 1400 Attorneys county wide). Three things stood out (1) SBCBA is on the smaller end of the mid-sized Bar Associations, Marin County, for e.g. is comparable; (2) some Bar Associations invest in RE, Riverside e.g., owns the office building where it is housed; (3) other Associations have more staff and offer more programs. JG with the concurrence of the Ex Comm still believes that the Board, if possible, should have consensus on the issue before proceeding, noting that there is no crisis precipitating immediate action. Options include free or reduced price programs, reduced income, purchase RE, etc.

EA suggested that the issue be mentioned at the Annual Dinner and ND noted that the Association's financial condition is traditionally discussed at the Annual Dinner. JS said that we should have a forecast of future staffing needs and expenses. MB stated that it would be helpful to next year's events coordinator to know if Bar events should make a profit, break even or would be reduced price with a subsidy from reserves.

c. Lawyer Referral Service Report

A written report was submitted.

The LRS is on budget, LS is very happy and has done a great job. August was a very good month with the LRS Program bringing in over \$20,000.00.

**3. Directors' Reports**

a. *Santa Barbara Lawyer Magazine* (James Sweeney)

A written report was submitted.

JS noted that the magazine makes approximately \$1000.00 a month and year to date had a net of \$8500.00. Budgeted annual is \$20,000.00 profit but actual net is projected at \$13,000.00. JS further noted that Lindsay Shinn, who has done a great job as the "Verdicts and Decisions" Editor was leaving and that Allegra Geller-Kudrow would replace her.

JS will be leaving the Board in December and he was thanked and lauded for his four years on the Board and his stellar performance as Magazine Editor and performance of other tasks.

b. MCLE (Nathan Rogers)

A written report was submitted with no questions.

Although not present, NR's four years of outstanding service to the Board was noted, his excellent work as head of MCLE and he was thanked as he will be leaving the Board at the end of the year.

c. Events (Mike Brelje, Elizabeth Diaz, Emily Allen)

A written report was submitted. The speaker for the Annual Dinner was discussed. MB suggested that the Honorable Milan Smith, Justice of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, might be willing to speak. JG will consult with Presiding Judge Herman about a speaker as he has done a great job getting CA Supreme Court Justices to come to SB. It was noted that time was of the essence as the Annual Dinner was less than two months away (November 3, 2016).

A member donated back to the Association the two (2) \$50 Gift Certificates he won in the Magazine's Short Story contest and it was decided not to raffle them off at the Annual Dinner. JS will consult with member on how best to proceed.

d. Bench & Bar Conference (Update) (Joe Billings; Eric Berg)

A written report was submitted. JB and EB met with Judge Herman the previous week. Pricing for the B & B conference discussed with EB suggesting that maybe pricing should be discounted to encourage attendance, it was traditionally \$110 a head and EB suggested a discount to \$ 89 a head.

Last year's pricing:

Early Bird	members= \$110; non- members= \$160
Non Early	members=\$120; non-members=\$175

ND stated that attendance did not seem to be price sensitive and MB thought that it might be. 6.5 hours of MCLE will be given. It was decided to offer a multi attendee discount, the exact amount TBD at the October Meeting. JS noted that the October 12 meeting was not too late to get prices into the November Magazine and it was decided that final pricing and food issues (estimates of Food Cost from \$1500 to \$3500 have been received) would be decided at the October Meeting.

Panel Speakers are as follows: (1) Steven E. Zipperstein- General Counsel of BlackBerry  
(2) Nate Cardozo from the Electronic Frontier Foundation  
(3) Alisha Meister of Larsen & O'Brien (formerly with the Dept of Justice).

ND moved; JG 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to award Nate Cardozo up to \$1000.00 in travel expenses, with it noted that this had been done in the past.

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- e. Bench & Bar Relations (Stephen Dunkle)

A written report was submitted. The Bench & Bar Meeting with Judge Herman had been postponed from 9/12/16 to 9/26/16.

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- f. Liaison (Emily Allen)

A written report to be submitted.

- g. Fiscal (Amber Holderness)

AH noted that assets remain strong; there is approximately \$34,000.00 in Checking; \$145,000.00 in the Money Market Account, both at Union Bank and the Schwab account was up for the year with approximately \$200,000.00 in it.

It was noted that the Association was on track to meet its Budget: Income for the year was more than budget at 80% for the year with two thirds (66%) of the year done and expenses were less than budget at 54% for the year.

- h. Awards and Board Development (Elizabeth Vogt)

Next Year's Board of Directors:

Five Board Members are leaving in December: ND, TL, EA, JS and NR. The Ex Comm met last week to discuss and selected five potential replacements (Brian Cota, Seana Thomas, Clark Lammers, Lawrence Conlan and Deborah Boswell) though it did not rank them. Only three new Directors are needed as Jeff Soderberg will join Board as the representative of the Barrister's and the SBWL Association will also nominate one Board member. The Ex Comm will meet to select the top three remaining new Directors to be nominated in December. JS read the bylaws: the nominated slate should be publicized to the membership with the Notice of the Annual Dinner or at least 15 days in advance of the Annual Dinner. Consistent with the bylaws, it was decided to timely email out the Proposed Slate immediately after the October 12 Board Meeting and to publish it in the November Magazine.

The Ex Comm recommended the following awards be given at the Annual Dinner:

Frank Crandall Community Service Award to Hollister & Brace;  
Richard Abbe Humanitarian Award to Judge George Eskin (retired);

Special Recognition to be given to Tom Hinshaw, who is stepping down after ten plus years as Chair of the Fee Arbitration Program.

EV was nominated to write the language of the Hinshaw award and EA to procure the plaques/award for the nominees and local dignitaries attending . EB moved and JS 2nd, passed unanimously.

i. Special Projects (Travis Logue)

j. Legislative Liaison (Elizabeth Diaz)

A written reported was submitted.

k. Grant Committee (James Griffith)

JG recommended that \$2000.00 be granted to the UCSB Mock Trial Team to assist in their traveling to a national competition. ND moved, MB 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously.

### 5. Coming SBCBA Events

Event	Event date	Last chance for <i>SBL</i> ad	Event	Event date
Next Board Meeting	2-10-2016	NA	Golf & Tennis Tourn.	Sept. 29
Past Pres. Lunch	May	NA	Justices' Reception	Oct. 19
Law Week	May		Annual Dinner	Nov. 3
Spring BBQ	June 17	March 1, 2016	Joint Board Meeting	12-14-2016
Justice Cueller Reception	July 8		Bench & Bar Conf.	Jan. 21, 2017

### 6. Adjournment

JG left at 6:45pm and JC presided until 6:53pm when the meeting was adjourned.