



The State Bar of California

Regular Meeting of the Finance Committee Hybrid

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
4:03 p.m.–5:14 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Finance Committee meeting commenced in open session at 4:03 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Chair: Arnold Sowell Jr.

Committee Coordinator: Sam Tesoro

Members Present: Patricia Barahona, Raymond Buenaventura, Cynthia Grande, Arnold Sowell Jr., Genaro Trejo

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ellin Davtyan, Erika Doherty, Leah Wilson

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Finance Committee was called to order by Chair Sowell. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sowell called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were persons who wished to comment on any agenda item. The following comments were provided to the committee:

1. Benjamin Kohn:
Commended State Bar staff for their efforts in mitigating issues caused by Meazure Learning but emphasized the need to account for these costs in the Admissions budget. They also urged budgeting for a more reliable exam vendor, even at a higher cost, to ensure operational integrity. Additionally, they warned of accommodation issues with Prometric and recommended securing a better option by July.
2. Todd Hill:
Raised concerns about the State Bar's fiscal accountability and resource allocation, criticizing its lack of transparency and questioning its spending on litigation avoidance over California Public Records Act compliance. They urged an audit to ensure funds support regulatory obligations and public trust.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

1.1 Oral Report

No report was provided.

2. BUSINESS

2.1 Discussion Regarding Relief for Attorneys Impacted by the Los Angeles Wildfires

Presenters: Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion only.

2.2 Discussion of 2025 State Bar General Fund and Admissions Budget

Presenter: Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion only.

2.3 Technical Correction to Rules of the State Bar of California Appendix A: Schedule of Charges and Deadlines, Related to Legal Specialization Fees, LLP & Law Corporations Deadlines, Fees for Unaccredited Law Schools, and Other General Edits

Presenters: Aracely Montoya-Chico, Chief Financial Officer

RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves and adopts the amendments to the Rules of the State Bar of California, Appendix A: Schedule of Charges and Deadlines, as set forth in Attachment B.

Moved by Buenaventura, seconded by Grande

Ayes – (5) Barahona, Buenaventura, Grande, Trejo, Sowell

Nays – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

ADJOURN