



The State Bar of California

3.1. 3/14/25 Minutes
5-9-25 Meeting
Open Session

Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Friday, March 14, 2025
10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct meeting commenced in open session at 10:02 a.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 12:42 p.m.

Chair: Cassidy Chivers

Committee Coordinator: Erika Doherty

Members Present: Emil Ali, Raquel Brigham Brown, Novella Coleman, Cassidy Chivers, Mary Grace Guzman, Eleanor Mercado, William Munoz, Daniel O’Rielly, Vikita Poindexter, Kerri Riley

Members Absent: Brandon Krueger, Nima Mohebbi, Deepika Ravi

OPEN SESSION

A. Remarks From the Chair

1. Call to Order
The Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct was called to order by Chair Chivers.
2. Roll Call
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. Call for Public Comment
Chair Chivers called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item.
 1. Kai On spoke to an issue with his attorney complaint being ignored
 2. Benjamin Seilmaber spoke about amending rule 1-400
 3. Minty Siu-Kootnikoff spoke about the threats to domestic violence victims when attorneys attempt to solicit business
4. Approval of Open Session Minutes: January 31, 2025

Moved by Mercado, seconded by Munoz.

Ayes – (9) Brown, Coleman, Mercado, Mohebbi, Munoz, O’Rielly, Poindexter, Riley, Chivers

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (2) Ali, Guzman

Absent – (2) Mohebbi, Ravi

Motion carries.

5. Report of the Chair
Chair Chivers provided an oral report.
6. Report of the Committee Coordinator
Ms. Doherty provided an oral report.

B. Business

1. Discussion of Draft Opinion 19-0004 [Client File Release and Retention Duties]

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct approves the interim draft opinion to be circulated for a 60-day public comment period.

Moved by Guzman, seconded by Mercado.

Ayes – (10) Ali, Brown, Coleman, Guzman, Mercado, Munoz, O’Rielly, Poindexter, Riley, Chivers

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (2) Mohebbi, Ravi

2. Discussion of Draft Opinion 24-0001 [Ethics of In-House Counsel: Former Clients/IP]

No recommendation. Discussion only.

3. Discussion of Draft Arbitration Advisory 2022-0XB [Determination of a ‘Reasonable’ Fee]

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct approves the interim draft opinion to be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

Moved by Munoz, seconded by O’Rielly.

Ayes – (9) Ali, Brown, Coleman, Mercado, Munoz, O’Rielly, Poindexter, Riley, Chivers

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (3) Guzman, Mohebbi, Ravi

4. Ethics Symposium

No recommendation. Discussion only.

5. Discussion of Draft Ethics Article re Activities that Threaten the Safety of Judges and Judicial Officers

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct approves the Draft Ethics Article to be published.

Moved by Brown, seconded by Mercado.

Ayes – (9) Ali, Brown, Coleman, Mercado, Munoz, O’Rielly, Poindexter, Riley, Chivers

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (3) Guzman, Mohebbi, Ravi

6. Discussion of Draft Opinion 21-0003 [Ethics of In-House Counsel: Business Transactions with Clients]

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct approves the proposed amended rules to be circulated for a 60-day public comment period.

Moved by Brown, seconded by Mercado.

Ayes – (9) Ali, Brown, Coleman, Mercado, Munoz, O’Rielly, Poindexter, Riley, Chivers

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (3) Guzman, Mohebbi, Ravi

Motion carries.

7. Discussion of Draft Opinion 21-0007 [Cryptocurrency]

No recommendation. Discussion only.

8. Discussion of 2025 Work Plan

No recommendation. Discussion only.

ADJOURN