

4.2 Approval of December 2, 2024, Board of Trustees Open Session Minutes



# The State Bar of California

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## Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees Zoom

Open Session Minutes  
Monday, December 2, 2024  
3:04 p.m.–3:33 p.m.

**Time meeting Commenced:** The Board meeting commenced in open session at 3:04 p.m.  
**Time meeting Adjourned:** 3:33 p.m.  
**Chair:** Brandon Stallings  
**Board Secretary:** Louisa Ayrapetyan  
**Members Present:** Patricia Barahona, José Cisneros, Sarah Good, Cynthia Grande, Mary Huser, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings, Mattheus Stephens, Genaro Trejo (joined late)  
**Members Absent:** Raymond Buenaventura, Mark Toney  
**Staff Present:** Ellin Davtyan, Leah Wilson

### OPEN SESSION

#### ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Chair Stallings. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stallings called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. The following comments were provided to the Board:

1. Benjamin Kohn:  
This speaker opposed the use of a "golden handshake" program as a method to reduce the State Bar's budget, arguing that it is an inefficient way to cut costs while already being short-staffed. They warned that the program could lead to rehiring expenses and a lack of control over which essential roles remain filled. Additionally, they referenced a prior offer to avoid monetary recovery, cautioning that if reforms are not implemented soon, they may no longer be able to make the same concessions due to personal financial and medical constraints.

#### 1. Chair's Report

##### 1.1 Oral Report

No oral report provided.

#### 2. Consent Calendar

##### 2.1 None

### 3. Business

#### 3.1 Consideration and Action on Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to the Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Governors/Trustees State Bar of California to Provide Government Code Section 20903 (Two Years Additional Service Credit) for State Bar Employees, and Other Necessary Related Actions

- **Publication of Future Annual Costs, as Determined by California Public Employees' Retirement System for the Increase or Change in Retirement Benefits Pursuant to Government Code Section 7507**

Presenters: Leah T. Wilson, Executive Director  
Justice Israel, Director, Office of Human Resources

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees approves and adopts, in its entirety, the Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Trustees State Bar of California, attached hereto as Attachment A (Exhibit Referenced in the Resolution is Attachment B); and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees elects to provide the benefits of Government Code section 20903 to all eligible members who retire within the designated period of January 13, 2025, through July 12, 2025; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees adopts, in its entirety, and makes the certifications outlined in the Certification of Compliance with Government Code Section 20903, attached hereto as Attachment D; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Board chair to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the Board's actions including the Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Trustees State Bar of California, attached hereto as Attachment A and the Certification of Compliance with Government Code section 20903, attached hereto as Attachment D; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Board secretary to execute, at the appropriate time, the Certification of Compliances with California Government Code section 7507 and Certification of Governing Body's Action, attached hereto as Attachments E and F, respectively; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the executive director, or designee, with the approval from the chair of the Board, to execute, complete and/or submit any documents necessary to effectuate Board's actions.

*Moved by Trejo, seconded by Good*

*Ayes – (9) Barahona, Cisneros, Good, Grande, Huser, Sowell, Stephens, Trejo, Stallings*

*Nays – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (2) Buenaventura, Toney*

**ADJOURN**