

4.3 Approval of January 7, 2025, Board of Trustees Open Session Minutes



The State Bar of California

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees Zoom

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
12:04 p.m.–12:57 p.m.

Time meeting Commenced: The Board meeting commenced in open session at 12:04 p.m.
Time meeting Adjourned: 12:57 p.m.
Chair: Brandon Stallings
Board Secretary: Louisa Ayrapetyan
Members Present: Patricia Barahona, Raymond Buenaventura, José Cisneros, Sarah Good, Cynthia Grande, Mary Huser, Arnold Sowell Jr., Brandon Stallings, Mattheus Stephens, Mark Toney, Genaro Trejo (joined late)
Members Absent: None
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. Todd Hill:
This speaker criticized the State Bar's lack of transparency, citing delays in responding to Public Records Act requests and exemptions from oversight. They urged the Board to prioritize accountability to restore public trust.
2. Ray Hayden, JD:
This speaker called for removing the written section of the California Bar Exam, arguing that multiple-choice questions better assess competency. They emphasized that real-world legal practice relies on reference materials, not memorization.
3. Benjamin Kohn:
This speaker raised concerns about denied testing accommodations, citing vague explanations and holiday-season delays that deter appeals. They urged the Board to address these systemic barriers.
4. Rianne Pacheco (Legal Aid Association of California):

This speaker supported agenda item 3.3 and expressed concerns that remote bar exams increase costs and logistical challenges, disproportionately impacting low-income and diverse candidates.

5. Anonymous Caller:

This speaker requested an extension for bar exam registration, citing financial hardship and missed deadlines. They argued that remote testing eliminates the need for strict early registration.

6. Claire Solot (Legal Services Funders Network):

This speaker supported agenda item 3.3 and highlighted financial barriers in the bar exam process. They urged the Board to address cost-related inequities affecting future public interest attorneys.

1. Chair's Report

1.1 Oral Report

Chair Stallings provided an oral report.

2. Consent Calendar

2.1 Approval of Specified Contracts Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 6008.6

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves execution of the contracts listed herein.

Consent Calendar moved by Buenaventura, seconded by Sowell

Ayes – (11) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Good, Grande, Huser, Sowell, Stephens, Toney, Trejo, Stallings

Nays – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

3. Business

3.1 Consideration and Action on 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

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 Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract, attached hereto as Attachment A; 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 Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract and the Amendment to the 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 it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Board secretary to execute, at the appropriate time, the Certification of Final Action of Governing Body, attached hereto as Attachment B; 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 Sowell, seconded by Good

Ayes – (11) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Good, Grande, Huser, Sowell, Stephens, Toney, Trejo, Stallings

Nays – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

3.2 Discussion of Supplemental Contract Amount for ProctorU, Inc. dba Meazure Learning for Live, Remote Proctoring and Test Center Services (Bar Exam and Legal Specialization Exam Administration) in 2025

Presenter: Bridget Gramme, Special Counsel, Division of Consumer Protection, Admissions, Access & Inclusion

Presentation and discussion only.

3.3 Action to Take Support Position on Pending Legislation: SBX1-1 (Wiener)

Presenters: Donna Hershkowitz, Chief of Mission/Legislative Director
Bridget Gramme, Special Counsel, Division of Consumer Protection, Admissions, Access & Inclusion

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts a support position on SBX1-1 (Weiner) by sending letters of support to the California Legislature and governor; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees permits co-chairs of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to co-sign the letters in support of SBX1-1 (Weiner).

Moved by Good, seconded by Cisneros

Ayes – (11) Barahona, Buenaventura, Cisneros, Good, Grande, Huser, Sowell, Stephens, Toney, Trejo, Stallings

Nays – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

ADJOURN