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The Board of Governors (Board) is directed by §48.2 of the House Rules of Procedure to report to the House of Delegates on actions taken by the Board. This report sets forth actions taken by the Board since the 2019 Annual Meeting. During that period, the Board met via video conference on November 15, 2019. The Board also had a conference call on January 28, 2020 regarding ABA facilities. The Board’s Executive Committee met by conference call on August 7 and 20, September 16 and 27, October 4 and 10 (email ballot), November 13 and 25, 2019, and January 8, 2020.

Amicus Briefs

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in Mathena v. Malvo in the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

August 2019

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in Romag v. Fossil in the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

September 2019

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in Nevada v. Vanisi in the Nevada Supreme Court, subject to adoption of the noted edits and approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

September 2019

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in June Medical Services, LLC v. Gee in the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to adoption of the noted edits and approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

November 2019

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in DHS v. Thuraissigiam in the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

January 2020

The Executive Committee approved the filing of an amicus curiae brief in Taylor v. Pima County in the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to approval of the final language by the Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs and the Office of the General Counsel.

January 2020

Awards and Contests

The Executive Committee approved the request of the Law Student Division to conduct a t-shirt design contest and fundraiser in honor of mental health awareness, with the understanding that the focus of the design will be lawyers and law students, subject to the
approval of the contest rules by the Office of General Counsel and approval of the design
and/or use of ABA branding by the Design and Production Department.

September 2019

The Board approved the request from the Section of Family Law to create the annual ABA
Section of Family Law Allen Gary Palmer Excellence in Service and Commitment Award
in honor of Allen Gary Palmer, now deceased.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Section of Litigation to establish a one-time
sweepstakes, Highest Chip Count at the social event, Black & Red: A Night at the Casino
which will be conducted at its 2020 Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee CLE
Seminar on March 6, 2020.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in
the Profession (Commission) to amend the Commission’s selection criteria and selection
process for the Spirit of Excellence Award.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent
Defendants (SCLAID) to establish the SCLAID Centennial Access to Justice Award for
one year and invited SCLAID to request approval of the award going forward.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Section of Antitrust Law to establish the Antitrust
Law Section Bar Service Award, the Antitrust Law Section Distinguished Public Service
Award, and the Antitrust Law Section Young Lawyer Innovative Service Award.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Senior Lawyers Division (Division) to amend the
John H. Pickering Award of Achievement, subject to the requirement that the Division
coordinates with the Governmental Affairs Office and the ABA Day Planning Committee
regarding timing of the presentation of the award.

November 2019

Bylaw Amendments

The Board approved the requests from the Section of Environment, Energy and
Resources and the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges to amend their
bylaws. The Board approved the request of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) to amend
its bylaws to define eligibility for membership in the YLD and to have each state’s
designated young lawyer representative to the House of Delegates automatically serve as
a delegate in the YLD Assembly, and deferred until the 2020 Midyear Meeting, the request
to amend the YLD’s mission statement in §1.2 of the YLD bylaws to allow for consultation
with the YLD leadership.
The Board approved the request of the Section of State and Local Government Law to amend its bylaws.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the Antitrust Law Section to amend its bylaws, with the understanding that the Technology Officer will oversee implementation of the ABA's Social Media Policy.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the Appellate Judges Conference (Conference) of the Judicial Division to amend its bylaws, subject to the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Appellate Judges Education Institute and the NJC, and provided that the edits to the bylaws are non-substantive.

February 2020

Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Outside Organizations

The Board approved the request from the AIDS Coordinating Committee (Committee), the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice (Section), and the Center for Human Rights (Center) to change the name of the Committee to the HIV/AIDS Impact Project, and make it a constituent project of the Center’s Health & Human Rights Initiative; administered jointly by the Section and the Center’s staff.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Standing Committee on Audit to amend its charter.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the Standing Committee on Paralegals to amend the Approval Commission composition and to reimburse members, with the understanding that no ABA general revenue is requested or required.

February 2020

Co-sponsorship Requests

The Profession, Public Service and Diversity Committee approved co-sponsorship requests from the following entities. No additional ABA general revenue is requested or required.

Center for Human Rights, to co-sponsor with the Polish Helsinki Foundation of Human Rights, Amnesty International in Poland, an event titled Judicial Independence, taking place from September 16 - 27, 2019, in Warsaw, Poland.

August 2019

Young Lawyers Division, to co-sponsor with the Louisiana State Bar, an event titled "Wills For Heroes," which would provide free estate planning documents to veterans and first responders. The event is taking place on October 5, 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

August 2019

Young Lawyers Division to co-sponsor, with the National Conference of Women’s Bar Associations, the program titled, GOOD Guys (Guys Overcoming Obstacles to Diversity):
The Next Generation of Leaders. Both organizations will collaborate on various in-person and web events over the course of the 2021 fiscal year.

September 2019

Section of Taxation, to co-sponsor with the National Association of State Bar Tax Section, its Annual Meeting taking place October 25-26, 2019, in Washington D.C.

September 2019

The Office of the President to co-sponsor with Fordham Law School, a program on Senator Bayh’s legacy, taking place on October 16, 2019.

September 2019

Governor Allen Goolsby, to have the ABA co-sponsor with the John Marshall Foundation and Preservation Virginia, its campaign titled, "Save the Robe.”

September 2019

Division for Public Education, to co-sponsor with the National Council for the Social Studies, the National-Law Related Education Conference, taking place next year in December 2020, at Washington D.C.

October 2019

Environmental Justice Committee of the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section, to co-sponsor with ABA approved law schools and the Environmental Law Institute, programs (both in-person and webinars) throughout FY2019-2020.

October 2019

Judicial Division Lawyers Conference, to co-sponsor with the National Judicial College, a webinar program tilted, Innovations in Bridging the Justice Gap in Rural America, to be held on December 16, 2019.

October 2019

Commission on Women in the Profession to co-sponsor with Ms. JD, Diversity Lab, MCCA, and the Military Spouse JD Network, the Ms. JD 2019 National Women’s Law Students Organization Leadership Academy to be held on November 23, 2019 at Harvard Law School.

October 2019

Center for Professional Responsibility to co-sponsor with Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, and other outside entities, the 19th Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference, taking place in March 2020 in Chicago, IL.

October 2019

Criminal Justice Section (for joint sponsorship with the Center for Human Rights) to co-sponsor with various outside entities a roundtable titled International Humanitarian Law Roundtable, which already took place in August 2019.

November 2019
Section of Intellectual Property Law to co-sponsor with various outside entities an event titled, *World IP Day 2020*, to be held on April 26, 2020, in Washington, DC. and to co-sponsor with various outside entities a program titled, *13th Annual USPTO Design Day*, to be held in April 2020, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

November 2019

Commission on Women in the Profession to co-sponsor with various outside entities a project titled, *Understanding and Assessing the Use of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms by Corporate Clients* and to co-sponsor with the National Conference of Women’s Bar Association a program titled *Men in the Mix: How to Engage Men on Issues Related to Gender in the Profession* to be held in conjunction with the 2020 ABA Midyear Meeting.

November 2019


November 2019

Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division to co-sponsor with the Group Legal Services Association, CLE programs at the Division’s Spring Meeting on April 29, 2020 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

November 2019

Antitrust Law Section to co-sponsor with various outside entities, the *International Competition Network’s 2020 Annual Conference Dinner*, taking place in May 2020 in Los Angeles, California, to co-sponsor with The MusicianShip, a talent showcase at the Spring SuperStars event taking place on Thursday, April 23, 2020 in Washington, DC, and to co-sponsor with various outside entities, telephonic committee programs, throughout the 2019-2020 bar year.

November 2019


November 2019

Commission on Immigration to co-sponsor with the Hebrew International Aid Society a Border Fellow at ProBAR, a project of the Commission on Immigration located in Harlingen, Texas, for one year, with a possible extension for a second year.

November 2019

Science and Technology Law Section to co-sponsor and make a financial contribution from section funds to the RSA Conference, to be held in San Francisco, CA on February 24-28, 2020.

November 2019
Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice to co-sponsor a joint online symposium with the New York University Journal of Law and Social Change on March 15, 2020.

November 2019

Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice to co-sponsor a full-day CLE program *New Developments in Sexual Harassment Law*, being held at Berkeley Law, University of California in Berkeley, California on February 7, 2020.

November 2019

Young Lawyers Division to co-sponsor and make a financial contribution from section funds to *What Do Lawyers Do?*, a networking program being held at various law schools in 2020.

November 2019

Standing Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness to host the *Standing Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness Disaster Symposium* being held at Pepperdine Law School in Malibu, California on February 21, 2020.

December 2019

Criminal Justice Section to co-sponsor *Implicit Bias All Around You: Workplace, Networking and in the Courtroom* being held at the Anna Arundel Circuit Court in Annapolis, Maryland on March 31, 2020.

December 2019

Section of Dispute Resolution to co-sponsor the *Advanced Patent and Technology Mediation and Arbitration Course* being held at Stanford Law School in Stanford, California on February 11-12, 2020.

December 2019

ABA Forum on Entertainment and Sports Industries to co-sponsor *Sports Data: Where We are and Where We are Going* being held at the American Bar Association in Chicago, Illinois on January 30, 2020.

January 2020


January 2020

Commission on Women in the Profession to co-sponsor *The First German Jewish Women Lawyers: Pioneers and Survivors* being held at the German Consulate in New York, New York on March 9, 2020.

January 2020

Section of Litigation to co-sponsor *Judging the Book by More Than Its Cover* being held at the Eaton Hotel in Washington, D.C. on March 12, 2020.

January 2020

Center on Children and the Law to participate with partners, the Migration Policy Institute and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, to develop written recommendations for
the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the federal agency charged with caring for unaccompanied immigrant children.

January 2020

Young Lawyers Division to co-sponsor a webinar series for the *YLD Men of Color Project* starting February 25, 2020.

January 2020

Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division (Division):

(i) to co-sponsor the Division’s Peace Officer Worker’s Compensation Program with the Wounded Blue.

February 2020

(ii) to co-sponsor the Division’s 2020 Spring Meeting with the Puerto Rico Bar Association on April 29 – May 5, 2020 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

February 2020

Commission on Immigration (Commission) to co-sponsor a free, three-day “Advocacy in Immigration Matters” training program through the Commission Children’s Immigration Law Academy with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy on August 5-8, 2020, in Houston, Texas.

February 2020

Section of Taxation to co-sponsor with the Institute for Professionals in Taxation the 2020 ABA/IPT Advanced Tax Seminars at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA on March 16-20, 2020.

February 2020

Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants to co-sponsor with Voices for Civil Justice, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and the Legal Services Corporation, the National Center for State Court’s new *Justice for All* website.

February 2020

Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (Section):

(i) to co-sponsor and make financial contributions from Section funds to the Anti-Cruelty Society for up to $1,300 for a public service project with the Anti-Cruelty Society on April 22, 2020 in Chicago, Illinois. The Section may also use up to an additional $300 on supplies related to the public service project.

February 2020

(ii) to co-sponsor with the Coalition for Green Capital and the American Green Bank Consortium a briefing and networking session in Washington, DC on March 10, 2020, for law students, young lawyers, and other attorneys in the energy and environmental law field.

February 2020
The Board deferred the request of the Science & Technology Law Section to co-sponsor the 2020 Commercial UAV Expo Americas from September 15-20, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada in order to seek further information on the cosponsoring organization, Diversified Communications, Inc.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the Health Law Section (Section) to collaborate with the Chicago Medical Society to develop the “See, Hear and Speak Up” program to help combat gun violence in schools through a preventative, non-partisan approach, and to seek outside funding for the project, subject to the providing of additional information regarding outside funding resources the Section will secure to support the program. The Section requested approval to solicit the American Medical Association’s participation in

February 2020

Dues

The Board deferred until the 2020 Midyear Meeting the request from the Section of Taxation (Section) to increase the dues for its regular members and associates from $75 to $105 to become effective September 1, 2020, in order to acquire additional information from the Section.

November 2019

The Board approved the request of the Health Law Section to increase its annual lawyer and associate member dues from $50 to $65 for the 2020-2021 bar year.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the Tax Section to increase the dues for its regular members and associates from $75 to $105, to become effective September 1, 2020.

February 2020

The Board was notified that the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section will increase its membership dues from $50 to $65 beginning in the 2021 bar year. In June 2002, the Board previously approved a dues ceiling of up to $75 for the Section.

February 2020

Elections, Appointments and Nominations


November 2019
The Board elected Lisa A. Dunner as an ABA representative on the Board of Trustees of the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2020 and concluding on June 30, 2023.

February 2020

Financial Matters

The Board approved the amended FY2020 Section budget of $53 million in revenue and $58.2 million in expenses.

November 2019

The Board received the consolidated financial statements, details of consolidation and other information for the years ended August 31, 2018 and 2019 and the Single Audit for the year ended August 31, 2019.

February 2020

International Matters

By email ballot, the Executive Committee approved the request to add the Maldives Government as an approved donor (self-financing country) to the list of Approved Countries of Operation, Donors, and Thematic Program Areas.

October 2019

The Board approved the request from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative to open offices in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kyiv, Ukraine, and to deregister the ABA CEELI Inc. Bosnia branch office which was closed in 2006.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from ROLI to include all EU Member States among the approved countries of operation; specifically, to expand the number of approved EU Member States ROLI can operate in from 11 to 28 by including Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of ROLI to include Germany among the approved countries of operation and register an ABA office in Germany.

February 2020

Meetings and Meeting Matters

The Board approved the request from the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division to charge no more than $50.00 each for up to four CLE programs to be presented at the 2020 ABA Midyear Meeting.

November 2019

The Board approved a policy regarding meeting site selection except for paragraph 2 therein and deferred consideration of it until the 2020 Midyear Meeting to allow for further discussion with the Standing Committee on Meetings and Travel.

November 2019
The Board approved the request of President-Elect Patricia Lee Refo to conduct the November 12-13, 2020, Board meeting as a teleconference and the June 1-4, 2021, Scottsdale, Arizona.

February 2020

Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements

The Board approved the request from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative to enter into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the following legal and civil society institutions and organizations: Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University, Mongolia Bar Association, Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines and its constituent entities, Vietnam Department for Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs of Tay Ninh Province, Blue Dragon, Vietnam Women’s Union, the Vietnam Center for Women and Development, and Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University. The Board also approved the request to renew an MOU for 2019-2020 with InterAction, and eight other non-governmental organizations, to form the Democracy, Rights, and Governance Initiative. All MOUs are subject to review and approval by the Office of the General Counsel, and a signed copy filed with the Division for Policy and Planning.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from ABA Rule of Law Initiative and the ABA Governmental Affairs Office to renew an MOU for 2019-2020 with InterAction, and eight other non-governmental organizations, to form the Democracy, Rights, and Governance Initiative, subject to review and approval by the Office of the General Counsel, and a signed copy filed with the Division for Policy and Planning.

November 2019

The Board approved the request from the ABA Center for Human Rights to enter into an MOU with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Colombia, subject to review and approval of the MOU by the Office of the General Counsel, and a signed copy filed with the Division for Policy and Planning.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel to renew an MOU, previously approved by the Board on June 9, 2017, with Jones Day for the VetLex Project, subject to review and approval of the MOU by the Office of the General Counsel, and a signed copy filed with the Division for Policy and Planning.

February 2020

The Board approved the request of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative to enter into Memoranda of Understanding, subject to review and approval by the ABA Office of General Counsel and signed copies filed with the Policy and Planning Division, with the following organizations: Vietnam: Vietnam Bar Federation, Vietnam Lawyers Association; Maldives: Maldives Bar Council, Public Interest Law Centre, Maldives Prosecutors Office, Maldives Anti-Corruption Commission; Thailand: Royal Thai Police, International Law Enforcement
Academy, Bangkok, National Anti-Corruption Commission; Thailand: Rangsit University, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific; Armenia: Academy of Justice of the Republic of Armenia; Bosnia and Herzegovina: University of Sarajevo Law Faculty; and Ukraine: Legal Aid Coordinating Center of the Ministry of Justice.

February 2020

Memorial Resolutions

The Board adopted memorial resolutions for former ABA Treasurer J. David Andrews of Seattle, Washington, and former Board Member Donald R. Dunner of Washington, DC.

November 2019

Membership/Member Benefits

The Board approved the request from the Standing Committee on Membership to add Lawyer Exchange as a member benefit provider to the Senior Lawyers.

November 2019

The Board approved the request of the Standing Committee on Membership to amend the Member Benefit Policy to clarify certain points of the document related to the program approval process, the types of information required for program consideration, and the program’s staff oversight, subject to non-substantive edits to the policy. Additionally, the Board approved a new internal program approval structure.

February 2020

Pension Matters

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation and request of the Finance Committee to authorize staff to consummate a transaction to refinance the existing pension loan to a new 7-year loan and to borrow up to an additional $20M and contribute those proceeds to the AEFC Pension Plan on behalf of the ABA.

October 2019

The Board approved the request that the American Bar Association, the American Bar Endowment, the American Bar Foundation and the National Judicial College fund their portion of the Pension Plan by an amount that is at least to the minimum level as required by applicable regulators as computed by the Plan Actuary by June 30, 2020 and maintain minimum level funding thereafter.

November 2019

Policy Matters

The Board approved a policy regarding contests, subject to the creation of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, clarification on “promotional offerings”, and the addition of a multiple events clause to address requests for multiple events within a single year.

November 2019
The Board approved the request to make the *Policy on Review and Approval of Reports by ABA Entities* (policy) a permanent policy. 

February 2020

**Presidential Citation**

The Presidential Citation Subcommittee of the Profession, Public Service and Diversity Committee approved the request of President Judy Perry Martinez to award a Presidential Citation to James J. Sandman for his extraordinary leadership benefiting the system of justice, considerable contributions to the access to justice, notable pro bono advocacy, and long-term contributions to the American Bar Association. 

February 2020

**Programmatic Matters**

The Board approved the request from the Section of Litigation to create a Fund for Justice and Education Program Support Fund for its Committee on the American Judicial System. 

November 2019

The Board declined to approve the request from ABA HIV/AIDS Impact Project to allow further deficit spending for the 2020 HIV Law & Practice Conference, if necessary, or absorb the deficit permanently as a public service contribution. 

February 2020