**Vermont Bar Association**

Board of Manager Meeting

Friday, January 14, 2022 11:00AM

Via Zoom

Present: Jessica Bullock, Rich Cassidy, Josh Diamond, Judith Dillon, Tom Durkin, Pam Eaton, Bob Fletcher, Elizabeth Kruska, Kate Lamson, Jordana Levine, Andrew Manitsky, James Rodgers, Ted Tyler, James Valente, Matt Valerio, Alfonso Villegas

Guest: Michael Kennedy

Staff: Teri Corsones, Lisa Maxfield, Laura Welcome

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by President Bob Fletcher at 11:04am.

2. **Emerging Issues:** Elizabeth Kruska acknowledged the three new judges recently sworn in, one of whom is former Board President, Elizabeth Novotny.

3. **Consent Agenda**:

A. Minutes: With the correction of one typo under 3H, changing "VBA Report" to "VBF Report," a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2021 Board meeting with unanimous approval.

B. Treasurer’s Report: Lisa Maxfield briefly discussed the budget. The treasurer's report was accepted as written.

C. Report of Executive Committee: Did not meet.

D. Board Committee Reports:

 i. **Operations**: Did not meet.

 ii. **Membership**: Did not meet.

 iii. **Program and Planning Committee**: Did not meet.

 iv. **Pro Bono Committee**: Teri reported that the request for the 2022 Pro Bono Award

nominees has gone out. The deadline for nominations is noon on February 11.

 v. **Governance Committee**: Did not meet.

 vi. **Workforce Development Committee**: Judith Dillon reported that the committee is moving forward with implementation of action items in the report. They have done outreach to the county bars and will follow up with them. She is working with Lisa Maxfield on developing a webpage geared to welcoming new lawyers. Judith and Teri have also met with Betsy Bishop, Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and will work together with the Chamber on common goals.

 vii. **Covid 19 Committee**: Andrew Manitsky reported that the courts are encouraging wearing N95 or KN95 masks in the courts. He reported that Mike Kennedy suggested a conference or meeting with solo practitioners, due to many reaching out to him regarding pandemic safety precautions and their legal practices.

E. President’s Report: Bob Fletcher congratulated Beth Novotny, Justin Jiron and Heather Gray on their recent swearing in as judges.
Bob stated he asked Lisa for information on the Client Security Fund and plans to bring the questions about a fund cap and the use of funds in excess of the cap to the membership at the Mid-Year Meeting.
Bob congratulated the winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Essay Contest.
Bob noted that he is on the committee to find a replacement for the Court Administrator and asked for the Board's thoughts and ideas.
Bob also acknowledged Jennifer Emens-Butler's leaving the VBA for another opportunity and wished her good luck in her future endeavors.

F. Executive Director’s Report: Teri Corsones thanked everyone who helped with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Essay Contest. She stated that they are awaiting confirmation from the Governor’s Office about details for an in-person awards ceremony at the statehouse.
Teri noted the Bar News story about the recent swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys at the statehouse.

Teri reported that the Mentor Advice Program now has enough experienced lawyers signed up as mentors to open up the Program to advisees.
The traditional Legislators’ Reception at the statehouse is up in the air due to the pandemic, and Teri will keep the Board apprised of the status.
Teri gave a brief synopsis on what's happening in the Legislature this session.
Teri informed the Board that we have two people on-board to replace Jennifer and Michelle.
Teri testified at the Senate institutions Committee about re-opening the courts and related HVAC issues. Discussion ensued about which court buildings are open and which have HVAC issues. Judge Durkin suggested including a question about how potential interviewees for the Court Administrator's position would get courts fully reopen again.

G. Staff reports:

Lisa Maxfieldreported that we are working on the 2022 attorney directory. She reminded the Board that the office is very short-staffed, but we are doing our best and hopes that everyone can be patient and understanding.

Laura Welcome reminded the Board that Jennifer Emens-Butler emailed them her final staff report. Laura stated she will be taking on organizing upcoming CLEs including the Mid-Year Meeting until Jennifer's replacement comes on board and can be trained.

H. VBF Report: Nothing to report.

I. A2J Coalition: Nothing to report.

4. **Action:**

 A. Enrollments: Jim Rodgers noted that there are no details included in the list of names of new members, as there used to be. Teri stated that we will include that information going forward.
Upon motion made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the enrollments.
Attorney Members: Jennifer Drake, Gregory Fox, Sarah Harding, Ethan Johnson, Carl Lindstrom, Victoria Miller, Kayley Olson, Jennifer Rushlow, Robert Russo, Beriah Smith, John Smith, Whitney Standefer, Michael Swain, Jacqueline Whitman. Associate Members: Ashleigh Angel, Thorin Blitz, Ludovica Brown, Chad Defoor, Connor Gilgallon, Jessica Van Buren.

5. **Discussion**:

 A. Malpractice Insurance Rule Update - Michael Kennedy reported that the sub-committee met about five times over the past year and circulated a bar-wide survey regarding Legal Malpractice Insurance optoins. The sub-committee voted to not require attorneys to obtain legal malpractice insurance, and to include a question on the licensing form as to whether an attorney has malpractice insurance coverage. The information would be public after two license cycles, so that data from the entire bar can be gathered. Discussion ensued.

6. **Executive Session**: None needed.

7. **New Business**:
 James Valente reported that the Young Lawyers Division Board has decided to reschedule the Mid-Winter Thaw to April 29-May 1, 2022 in Montreal.
 Rich Cassidy asked that the Board recirculate the list of members who did not renew their dues, so the Board can reach out to them. Lisa Maxfield stated she would update that list and provide it to the Board.

8. **Old Business**: None.

9. **Adjourn**: On motion made, seconded and unanimously voted, the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

 VBA Staff