

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE OTESAGA, COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK
JUNE 15-16, 2017**

PRESENT: Members Karina E. Alomar, Alyssa M. Barreiro, Jonathan B. Behrins, Earamichia Brown, Matthew J. Coseo, Norman P. Effman, Margaret J. Finerty, Michael L. Fox, Michael W. Galligan, Sharon Stern Gerstman, Sarah E. Gold, Henry M. Greenberg, Claire P. Gutekunst, Richard M. Gutierrez, Bryan D. Hetherington, Scott M. Karson, Elena DeFio Kean, Stuart J. LaRose, Peter H. Levy, Michael Miller, Steven E. Millon, Domenick Napoletano, Bruce J. Prager, Sandra Rivera, William T. Russell, Jr., Carol A. Sigmond, David H. Tennant, Sherry Levin Wallach.

Guests: James A. Barnes, Donald C. Doerr, Mark S. Gorgos, Brian J. Malkin, Edwina Frances Martin, Thomas E. Schimmerling, Michelle H. Wildgrube, and Lisa M. Yaeger.

Ms. Gerstman presided over the meeting as President of the Association.

1. Ms. Gerstman called the meeting to order, and Jonathan B. Behrins, Norman P. Effman, Margaret J. Finerty, Sarah E. Gold, Richard M. Gutierrez, William T. Tussell, Jr. and Carol A. Sigmond were welcomed as new members of the Executive Committee.
2. Approval of minutes of meeting. The minutes of the March 31, 2017 meeting were accepted as distributed.
3. Consent Calendar.
 - a. Confirmation of Audit Committee appointments.
 - b. Rescission of change of name of Lawyer Assistance Program.

The consent calendar, consisting of the items listed above, was approved by voice vote.

4. Report of the Treasurer. Mr. Karson, in his capacity as Treasurer, updated the Executive Committee with respect to the results of operations for the first four months of 2016. The report was received with thanks.
5. Board Development and Orientation Session. Led by Associate Executive Director Elizabeth Derrico, the committee members participated in a board development session to discuss review Association governance and policy. Ms. Gerstman led a discussion of liaisons' roles in facilitating communication, providing guidance on policy and procedure, and encouraging sections and committees to undertake projects. She asked liaisons to maintain regular contact with their groups, encourage them to submit reports for consideration by the Executive Committee and/or House of Delegates and comment on reports submitted by other groups, and to be mindful of the need for diversity. She outlined the reimbursement policy for liaisons attending section and committee meetings.

Ms. Gerstman also reviewed the responsibilities of Vice Presidents, as set forth in the By-laws, to promote relations with local bars and members in their respective districts. She noted the importance of informing local bar leaders, including those of minority and specialty bars, of Association initiatives and encouraged them to advise the Association of local bar concerns.

6. Report of Lawyer Assistance Committee. Lisa M. Yaeger, the committee's chair, together with committee secretary Thomas E. Schimmerling, presented an informational report reviewing the committee's and the Program's activities during the prior year. The report was received with thanks. The committee then presented an award to Claire P. Gutekunst for her support of the Program during his presidency.
8. Report of staff leadership. Pamela McDevitt, Executive Director, Elizabeth Derrico, Associate Executive Director, and Jason Nagel, Managing Director of IT Services, highlighted staff efforts with respect to staff changes, enhancement of non-dues revenue, technology, and membership initiatives. The report was received with thanks.
9. Report and recommendation of Committee on Committees. Donald C. Doerr, chair of the committee, reviewed the committee's report and recommendations with respect to the operation of 16 committees. After discussion, motions were adopted with respect to the following:
 - a) A motion was adopted to approve the recommendation to discharge the Task Force on Gun Violence, with the understanding that the President will identify another Association entity to address these issues.
 - b) A motion was adopted to approve the recommendation to discharge the Special Committee on Re-Entry.
 - c) A motion was adopted to approve the recommendation to discharge the Committee on Youth Courts.
 - d) A motion was adopted to approve the remaining recommendations contained in the report.In addition, Ms. Gerstman asked the committee to consider the development of guidelines for members' service on committees.
10. Proposal to create a Committee on Transportation. Ms. Gerstman outlined a proposal to create a Committee on Transportation to address issues relating to regulation, technology and infrastructure. She noted that the Association does not have an existing section or committee that addresses these topics. After discussion, a motion was adopted to approve the creation of the committee. A mission statement will be prepared for approval by the Executive Committee.
11. Report of President. Ms. Gerstman highlighted the information contained in her printed report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.
12. Report re legislative activities. In her capacity as chair of the Committee on legislative Policy, Ms. Rivera updated the Executive Committee on the 2016 state legislative ses-

sion, particularly with respect to the Association's legislative priorities. Special Counsel Richard Rifkin updated the Executive Committee with respect to the Association's Federal legislative activities. The report was received with thanks.

13. Report and recommendations of Committee on the New York State Constitution. In his capacity as chair of the committee, Mr. Greenberg reviewed the committee's report on whether to support the holding of a constitutional convention, noting the arguments both for and against a convention and outlining the committee's reasoning for support. After discussion, a motion was adopted to endorse the report and recommendations for favorable action by the House.
14. Report and recommendations of Environmental and Energy Law Section. In her capacity as Executive Committee liaison to the section, Ms. Rivera outlined the section's report with recommendations as to steps New York State might take to address climate change. After discussion, a motion was adopted to endorse the report and recommendations for favorable action by the House.
15. Report of Committee on Continuing Legal Education. James A. Barnes, chair of the committee, together with Katherine Suchocki, Senior Director of Continuing Legal Education, outlined initiatives the committee is pursuing to develop innovative products, improve marketing, and utilize new technology. The report was received with thanks. In addition, Ms. Gerstman thanked immediate past committee chair Ellen G. Makofsky for her service as chair of the committee during the past year and her work in ensuring a smooth transition.
16. Report re public interest pilot membership program. In his capacity as a member of the Committee on Membership, Mr. Hetherington, together with committee member Edwina Frances Martin, reported on the progress of the reduced dues category for public interest attorneys pilot project. They noted that a number of providers have agreed to participate and that they are trying to enlist the support of the three largest legal services providers. The report was received with thanks.
17. Report of Committee on Membership. Committee vice chair Michelle H. Wildgrube updated the Executive Committee on recruitment campaigns aimed at solo/small firm lawyers and efforts aimed at younger lawyers, with a focus on personal outreach. The committee is conducting "road shows" in several counties. She encouraged members of the Executive Committee to work collaboratively with the Membership Committee in these efforts. The report was received with thanks.
18. Proposal to create a Committee on Cannabis Law. Brian J. Malkin, chair of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law Section, outlined a proposal to create a committee to address issues surrounding the use of cannabis products, noting that these issues affect multiple Association sections. After discussion, a motion was adopted to approve the creation of a committee, subject to the development of a name and stated purpose to be approved by the Executive Committee.

19. New Business.
- a. Committee appointment process. Ms. Gerstman observed that members of the Executive Committee had been copied on a letter raising concerns about the rotation of members from a committee and sought input from members as to a response. After discussion, Ms. Gerstman thanked the members for their recommendations.
 - b. Letter regarding First Department Presiding Justice. Ms. Gerstman reported that the Association had been asked to sign a letter to the Governor requesting the retroactive designation of Hon. Peter Tom as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. After discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Gerstman will decline the request.
20. Date and place of next meeting. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Friday, November 3, 2017 at the Bar Center in Albany.
21. Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Levin Wallach
Secretary