



BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Wednesday, April 14 - 4:00 p.m.
via Zoom on-line meeting

MINUTES

Approved 5/12/2021

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

P = Present; Z = Present via Zoom; T = Present Telephonically; A = Absent

Wendi Sorensen - Z

M. Maureen Anders - Z

James Anderson - Z

James Cross - Z

Robert Denison - Z

Michael Goldberg - Z

Georgette Hasiotis - Z

Kimberly Heldt - Z

Abe Lai - A

Phoebe Moffatt - Z

Blake Moscatello - A

Jeffrey Neff - Z

Elizabeth Ortiz - Z

OTHER ATTENDEES:

State Bar Staff: Connie Hay

Minutes taken by: Connie Hay

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Wendi Sorensen
4:02 p.m.

2. Call to the Public – No public attendees

3. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of the March 10, 2021 General Session meeting was reviewed.

Motion for approval by: Jeff Neff

Second by: Jim Anderson

Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

The minutes of the March 10, 2021 Executive Session meeting was reviewed.

Motion for approval by: Maureen Anders

Second by: Jim Anderson

Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

4. Construction Defect Law.

The Chair asks for comments regarding the proposal to add Construction Defect law as a specialty. All agree their questions were answered in the previous meeting and are satisfied with

the Standards as written. A motion is made to move the proposal for a Construction Defect Law specialty forward to the Board of Governors,

by: Bob Denison

Second by: Jeff Neff

Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

5. Criminal Law Standards. Elizabeth Ortiz and Michael Goldberg reporting.

Elizabeth explains her background as a prosecutor since 1993, having worked both pre- and post- conviction. Michael also previously worked as a prosecutor. They outline the topic:

- 1) Currently experience in both appellate and felony trials is required in the Criminal Law standards, although usually attorneys do not work in both. They are distinct areas.
- 2) The purpose of legal specialization is to give consumers a guide, and the current measuring standard does not.
- 3) A discussion was held with Steve Weiss, Chair of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission who was a prosecutor and then defense attorney. He is no longer certified as a specialist, and he thinks pre- and post- trial work is normal, but only spoke for himself and not the Commission.
- 4) The question remains, is it appropriate to create a separate Appellate specialty?

Ideas were discussed including possible solutions: Adjusting the current standards to incorporate a point system; essays in their particular area of focus; allowing the specialist to indicate they do not work in a particular area (examples could be “Zoning” for real estate and “Appellate” for criminal law); or the development of sub-specialties.

Elizabeth and Michael will follow up with the entire Criminal Law Advisory Commission to address the topic.

6. Executive Session.

Motion to move into Executive Session by: Jeff Neff

Second by: Jim Anderson

Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

Convene into Executive Session

4:36 p.m.

Reconvene into General Session

4:38 p.m.

James Cross is no longer present.

7. Specialist Recertification Applications

a) Motion to approve the Criminal Law Advisory Commission recommendations for recertification:

Michael V Black

Robert J Campos

David Michael Cantor

Todd K Coolidge

Kristen M Curry

Bruce Feder
Gregory J Kuykendall
Nathan D Leonardo
Elizabeth Mullins
Todd E Nolan
Raymond V Panzarella
Chad Eric Pajerski
Robin I Puchek
Stephen G Ralls
Jefferson M Simmons
Joseph P St Louis
Adam Susser
Marc J Victor
Christine C Whalin

By: Jeff Neff
Second by: Maureen Anders
Abstentions: None
Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

b) Motion to approve the Real Estate Law Advisory Commission recommendation for recertification:

Daniel Kloberdanz

By: Jim Anderson
Second by: Jeff Neff
Abstentions: None
Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

c) Motion to approve the Bankruptcy Law Advisory Commission recommendations for recertification:

James Cross
Larry Folks
Pernell McGuire

By: Jeff Neff
Second by: Maureen Anders
Abstentions: James Cross is absent
Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

8. Date of next meeting:

May 12, 2021 – 4 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by: Jeff Neff
Second by: Jim Anderson
Chair call for Vote: Unanimous; Motion Passes

Meeting adjourned: 4:43 p.m.