

OREGON STATE BAR
BUSINESS LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2025

TIME AND PLACE

Upon notice duly given, a meeting of the Executive Committee (the “**Committee**”) of the Business Law Section (the “**Section**”) of the Oregon State Bar (the “**Bar**”) was held at Oregon State Bar Center, 16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard, Oregon 97224 on April 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific time.

PRESENT

Present were Committee members Joe Cerne (*Chair*), Krista Evans (*Chair-Elect*), Michael Walker (*Past Chair*), Matt Larson (*Treasurer*), Blake Bowman (*Secretary*), Tim Crippen, Berit Everhart, Taylor Gersch, Leigh Gill, Justin Monahan, Jennifer Nicholls, Ben Pirie, Kimberly Boswell and Melanie Choch. Mike Williams (*Bar Liaison*) and Jackie Kranz (*Newsletter Editor*) were also present.

Melissa Jaffe was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Bowman acted as Secretary and kept the minutes.

MEETING

Mr. Cerne called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Prior Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the Committee’s meeting held on March 6, 2025. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Committee’s March 6, 2025 meeting are approved.

2. Bar Liaison Report

Mr. Williams reported regarding activities at the Bar. He requested that Committee members encourage people in their network to consider applying for the Bar Board of Governors’ open Region 2 (Eugene Area) position. He also noted that that the Bar was seeing more retirements and/or license suspensions as compared to prior years. There are also retirements with Bar staff, which is reducing the Bar’s ability to co-sponsor offsite CLEs and other events.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Larson provided the report. Mr. Larson reviewed the February 2025 financial report. He noted that total Section expenditures in February were about \$500 and the membership fee revenue was tracking to budget.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. CLE Subcommittee. Mr. Crippen provided the report. He indicated that the Bar was no longer able to co-sponsor offsite CLEs. The Subcommittee still wants to hold the annual CLE at the Nines, but the Subcommittee would have to do all planning and coordination on its own (though the Bar could still assist with registration). In order to break even on the annual CLE, the Subcommittee believes it would require at least 100 attendees, 10% to 20% price increases, and increased sponsorship. Mr. Crippen requested input from the Committee on whether the Committee was comfortable taking the financial risk to host the annual CLE without Bar co-sponsorship. Mr. Williams presented the implications of losing money on the annual CLE, mainly that it would require raising Section dues and reduced Section expenses next year. The Committee supported hosting the annual CLE at the Nines again, and noted that the Subcommittee should seek sponsors as soon as possible. The Committee also noted that planning for the event without Bar co-sponsorship would require bigger commitments from members of the Subcommittee. Mr. Crippen also reported that the Subcommittee was planning to host a lunch time CLE on an abuse reporting before the end of April.

B. Newsletter and Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Everhart provided the report. She noted that the Q1 newsletter is live. The Subcommittee still needs to get a few more people lined up for articles for the Q2 newsletter. Ms. Everhart indicated that the Subcommittee is looking into new data/interaction reports related to the newsletter, such as search engine referrals/clicks and views on the specific articles. There are still issues with newsletter emails getting blocked by some Section members. Mr. Williams explained that updates were made to the email delivery system, but some issues require Section members to update their account settings or remove email blocking restrictions.

C. New Business Lawyers Subcommittee. Ms. Everhart provided the report. She noted that there was strong attendance from non-EC members at the last Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee wants to sponsor a table at the new lawyer swearing in ceremony at Willamette University in May. The sponsorship fee is about \$100 and members from the Subcommittee would attend to encourage newly sworn in lawyers to join the Section. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Committee approves of sponsoring a table at the new lawyer swearing in event at Willamette University in May, with costs of approximately \$100.

The Committee discussed ways to market the Section and make Section registration easier at the swearing in ceremony. Ms. Everhart explained that the Subcommittee is adding a student representative from each of the three Oregon law schools to help with planning social events and provide further outreach at the law schools.

D. Legislative Subcommittee. Mr. Gill provided the report. He explained that SB 164 (the LLC modernization bill) was recommend for passage at committee and referred to the ways and means committee. There are some costs related to implementing the changes to the LLC Act, so the legislature is working on how to budget the costs. Mr. Walker noted that the Oregon Law Commission believes that the bill will pass. Mr. Gill indicated that the Subcommittee is still analyzing what the process would look like if the Committee wants to submit a letter in favor of passage. The Committee supported providing such a letter. The Subcommittee plans to move forward with drafting the letter and will check in with the Committee on process. At this point, other bills that have not had a full committee hearing are unlikely to pass.

E. Outreach Subcommittee. Ms. Evans provided the report. She indicated that the June 5th social event with the Oregon Society of CPAs is planned. The Committee meeting will occur at Ballard Spahr at 4:00, with the CPA social following at 5:00. The Subcommittee is looking for sponsors to help with food and beverage costs and is working on promotion of the event. Ms. Evans also reported that the Subcommittee is making, and will continue to make, LinkedIn posts as a rate of about one to two per week. Mr. Cerne encouraged all Committee members to follow the Section's LinkedIn account and to promote its LinkedIn posts.

F. Castles Leadership Award Subcommittee. Mr. Walker provided the report. He indicated that the Subcommittee is circulating requests for nomination for the Castles award and intends to send out requests through the Section newsletter. The Subcommittee also intends to send out nomination requests through direct emails to Section members. The Subcommittee's goal is to get nominees and determine the award recipient earlier (approximately September) to promote the award recipient further in advance of the annual CLE.

G. Nominating and Member Recruitment Subcommittee. Mr. Cerne indicated that there were no material updates to report from the Subcommittee.

5. Other Business

No other business was presented or discussed.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. Pacific time.