

**OREGON STATE BAR**  
**BUSINESS LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 7, 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 virtually via Zoom on August 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific time.

**PRESENT**

Present were Committee members Joe Cerne (*Chair*), Michael Walker (*Past Chair*), Matt Larson (*Treasurer*), Blake Bowman (*Secretary*), Tim Crippen, Leigh Gill, Ben Pirie, Jennifer Nicholls and Kimberly Boswell. Mike Williams (*Bar Liaison*) was also present.

Krista Evans (*Chair-Elect*), Berit Everhart, Justin Monahan, Taylor Gersch, Melanie Choch and Melissa Jaffe were 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 June 5, 2025. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Committee’s June 5, 2025 meeting are approved.

**2. Bar Liaison Report**

Mr. Williams reported regarding activities at the Bar. He indicated that the Bar is still looking for public members for the Board of Governors. Anyone with an appropriate background is welcome to apply, but it is a four-year commitment and requires a willingness to review substantial material in preparation for meetings. The Bar is also working through the annual budgeting process for the various sections and will be in touch with the Section’s treasurer soon.

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Larson provided the report. Mr. Larson reviewed the June 2025 financial report. He reported that revenue was above budget, largely due to paid members being higher than last year (843 compared to 828). The biggest expenses in June were compensation for the newsletter editor

and the catering costs for the social event with the Oregon Society of CPAs. He also noted that there were some phishing attempts with people pretending to be Joe Cerne or Matt Larson. While unsuccessful, as a precaution going forward, all reimbursement requests or requests to pay vendors will require a call from Matt to verify the request before payment.

#### **4. Subcommittee Reports**

*A. CLE Subcommittee.* Mr. Crippen provided the report. He indicated that the Subcommittee submitted registration forms for the annual CLE to the Bar, and that registration emails have gone out. The Subcommittee is under contract with The Nines Hotel and is beginning to work with the event planning and A/V team at The Nines. The Subcommittee is working on the speaker lineup and could use help to lock down speakers. Sponsorship is strong, but the Subcommittee is looking for a few more strategic sponsorships. The July 10 CLE was successful, with about 27 attendees attending for a CLE on tariffs presented by attorneys at Miller Nash. The next quarterly CLE will be in September with Gary Bruce from Schwabe presenting on the SB 951 and the corporate practice of medicine.

*B. Newsletter and Communications Subcommittee.* In Ms. Everhart's absence Mr. Cerne provided the report. He reported that the Q3 newsletter is on track for publishing with four different topics and the continuation of the barrister banter series. There is only one committed author for the Q4 newsletter, and the Subcommittee could use help to get more.

*C. New Business Lawyers Subcommittee.* In Ms. Evans and Ms. Everhart's absence Mr. Cerne provided the report. He indicated that planning for the law school panel presentations is in process. Panel presentations will be in September and October. Taylor has the University of Oregon panel well developed with attorneys from a variety of practices. He also reported that the Subcommittee continues to run into issues with its law student stipend program. There are no law students in summer employment that are waiting on funds to be allocated from the Section. The Committee discussed what to do with the unallocated stipend funds, including if funds can be directed to the Small Business Legal Clinic or if they can be used for law student externships. Mr. Cerne asked Mr. Williams if someone from the Bar could present at an upcoming Committee meeting on what limitations there are for use of stipend funds.

*D. Legislative Subcommittee.* Mr. Gill provided the report. He indicated again that SB 164 (the LLC Act modernization bill) did not pass in this last legislative session, but there are a handful of laws that did pass that are relevant to Section members. The Subcommittee intends to focus on educating members about these new laws (for example, in the newsletter or at upcoming CLE presentations). Mr. Williams added that SB 164, or another version of it, may have a chance to pass in the 2026 short session if there is support from the Secretary of State.

*E. Outreach Subcommittee.* In Ms. Evans and Ms. Everhart's absence Mr. Cerne provided the report. He reported that the Subcommittee is beginning to plan the 2026

annual Committee meeting. The current plan is to stick with the Atticus Hotel in McMinnville and use a similar format as past years.

*F. Castles Leadership Award Subcommittee.* Mr. Walker provided the report. He indicated that there was a good response to the outreach to past Section presidents, and the Subcommittee now consists of ten members. There is a meeting scheduled for August 27 and the Subcommittee has received one nomination so far. Mr. Walker noted that he will encourage the Subcommittee member to seek out other qualified nominees in the coming months.

*G. Nominating and Member Recruitment Subcommittee.* Mr. Cerne provided the report. He reported that the New Lawyer Subcommittee recently added a member from Bend, helping increase geographic outreach. Looking ahead at the terms of current Committee members and those that have already indicated they will not be joining the Committee, there will be a number of new openings on the Committee that will need to be filled. The Subcommittee is also looking into officer positions for next year.

## **5. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m. Pacific time.