

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

**October 9, 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 Samuels Yoelin Kantor LLP, 111 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800, Portland, Oregon 97204 on October 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. Pacific time.

**PRESENT**

Present were Committee members Joe Cerne (*Chair*), Krista Evans (*Chair-Elect*), Michael Walker (*Past Chair*), Blake Bowman (*Secretary*), Tim Crippen, Leigh Gill, Jennifer Nicholls, Berit Everhart, Kimberly Boswell, Melissa Jaffe and Melanie Choch. Mike Williams (*Bar Liaison*), Michael Dunlap (*Oregon State Bar*) and Jackie Kranz (*Newsletter Editor*) were also present.

Matt Larson (*Treasurer*), Ben Pirie, Justin Monahan and Taylor Gersch 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 September 4, 2025. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Committee’s September 4, 2025 meeting are approved.

**2. Bar Liaison Report**

Mr. Dunlap reported regarding activities at the Bar. He noted that the Bar needs more volunteer graders for the Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination (SPPE).

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Cerne provided the report in Mr. Larson’s absence. Mr. Cerne reviewed the August 2025 financial report. There was limited financial activity in the Section during August. Mr. Cerne noted that he will handle reimbursements while Mr. Larson is on an extended vacation during

October. He also noted that the next Committee meeting will involve important 2026 budget discussions and asked all Committee members to be present and prepared for those items at the next meeting.

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

*A. CLE Subcommittee.* Mr. Crippen provided the report. He noted that the speaker list for the Annual CLE is complete and the Bar will be sending out a final notice for registration with these details in the coming weeks. Mr. Crippen reported that current registrations are low (19 for in person and 3 for online). The Committee discussed ways to further market the Annual CLE including LinkedIn posts, subcommittee notices, and emails to last years' attendees. Mr. Dunlap reported that \$10,000 in sponsorship funds had been received by the Bar for the Annual CLE. Mr. Williams confirmed that sponsorship funds could be used to cover alcohol charges for the Annual CLE. Mr. Crippen and Mr. Bowman explained that the Subcommittee had elected to offer a live streaming version of the Annual CLE. The Subcommittee had been considering upgrading the Section's Zoom subscription to include webinar features to help with quarterly CLEs next year, but the inclusion of live streaming at this years' Annual CLE necessitates upgrading now. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Committee approves upgrading the Section's Zoom account to include webinar features at a cost of \$690 for a 12-month subscription.

*B. Newsletter and Communications Subcommittee.* Ms. Everhart provided the report. She noted that the Q3 newsletter recently went out to Section members. She also reported that the Q4 newsletter was coming along well. Ms. Kranz reported that two articles for the Q4 newsletter were already complete and a third article is lined up. The Subcommittee expects to report on newsletter engagement data at the next Committee meeting. Ms. Everhart also noted that the Subcommittee intends to do substantial planning for the Q1 2026 newsletter to assist with the handoff to new Subcommittee members next year.

*C. New Business Lawyers Subcommittee.* Ms. Evans and Ms. Everhart provided the report. They reported that the University of Oregon panel event was held last week, the Lewis & Clark panel event was held this week, and the Willamette event will be held next week. The completed panel events were well attended, and they thanked Subcommittee members for their efforts in organizing these. They also reported that the Subcommittee will host a social at Tryon Creek Bar and Grill on October 28<sup>th</sup> and intends to invite nearby Lewis & Clark law students and other aspiring business lawyers to the event.

*D. Legislative Subcommittee.* Mr. Gill provided the report. He noted that the special legislative session wrapped up recently with no activities related to business law items. The Subcommittee has suspended its normal meetings but will keep monitoring legislative events for updates. Mr. Walker reported that efforts to pass the new LLC Act are ongoing, and the new LLC Act may find its way into the 2026 legislative session.

*E. Outreach Subcommittee.* Ms. Evans and Ms. Everhart provided the report. They reported that the annual Committee meeting and retreat will be held in McMinnville, similar to past years. Dinner will be held at McMenamins, Committee members will be staying at the Atticus Hotel, and the Committee meeting will take place at a local winery event space. The Committee discussed logistics for the annual Committee meeting, including estimating attendees based on Committee members that may drop off or be added.

*F. Castles Leadership Award Subcommittee.* Mr. Walker provided the report. He noted that the Subcommittee got useful engagement from its members (mainly past chairs), meeting were well attended and strong nominations were put forward. He reported that the Subcommittee had ultimately decided to recommend that Ambyr O'Donnell be awarded the James B. Castles Award. Mr. Walker noted that Ms. O'Donnell's nomination package had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting, and Mr. Walker provided a summary of Ms. O'Donnell's qualifications for the award. The Committee discussed Ms. O'Donnell's exceptional service to the business law community and her merits for the award. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Committee awards the James B. Castles Award to Ambyr O'Donnell.

The Committee then discussed logistics for presenting the award to Ms. O'Donnell at the Annual CLE and inviting members of her network to join the award presentation.

*G. Nominating and Member Recruitment Subcommittee.* Mr. Cerne provided the report. He noted that the deadline to apply to join the Committee is October 10, and the Subcommittee has received three applications so far. In the coming weeks the Subcommittee will review the applications and provide recommendations to the Committee at the next meeting.

## **5. Other Business**

Mr. Cerne passed along a request from the Civics Learning Project for support from Committee members. Mr. Bowman noted that the next Committee meeting is on November 4<sup>th</sup>, not November 6<sup>th</sup> as it was originally scheduled.

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Pacific time.