

# Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

## Board of Directors Meeting

New Haven Lawn Club, New Haven, Connecticut

April 19, 2023

Present: Wesley Horton (President), Jeffrey Babbin, Katie Bare, Mike Besso, Bill Bevacqua, Honorable Greg D'Auria, Pat Fahey, Glenn Falk, Bill Fish, Clare Kindall, Pamela Nagy, Eboni Nelson, Donald Rogers, Kate Stith-Cabranes, Jon Weiner, Harry Weller, Jeffrey White, Peter T. Zarella.

Guest: Laura Ray

I. President Wesley Horton convened the meeting at 5:01pm.

II. **Secretary's Report.** Rogers offered minutes from the January 9, 2023 meeting, and **the group unanimously approved them.**

III. **Treasurer's Report.**

- A. Babbin reported that the society's bank balance rests at \$77,704.37, rising up to typical levels, he said, now that dues payments have resumed after a pause during the COVID pandemic. **The group unanimously approved the report.**
- B. Bevacqua noted that the report indicates a society payment to Go Daddy for a domain name, but that the society's site does not show up in a Google search. Discussion suggested that this might result from the fact that the Judicial Branch hosts the site.
- C. Babbin observed that the society is required to submit a form 990-N to the IRS yearly to maintain the society's 501(c)(3) status in good standing and that he would do that in May.

IV. **Committee Reports.**

A. **Nominating Committee** (see attachment)

- 1. Retiring members Clare Kindall and Glenn Falk were thanked for their service.
- 2. For the nominating committee, Bare then proposed a slate of officers for the 2023-2024 year—Horton for president, White for vice president, Babbin for treasurer, Rogers for secretary, and Weiner for assistant secretary/treasurer--and on motion by Bare, second by Weller, **the group unanimously approved it.**
- 3. Again, for the nominating committee, Bare proposed a slate of Class B directors (2023-2026)—Bare, Besso, Fahey, Weiner and Zarella—and on motion by Bare second by Weller, **the group unanimously approved this, too.**

B. **Membership Committee.** Although she could not attend, Zaino submitted a written membership committee report indicating (as updated by Babbin on Zaino's behalf) 78 current members, including 70 individuals and 8 law firms, 6 of which contributed \$1,000 as firm benefactors and 2 of which gave \$500 as firm sponsors. It was noted that the society's mailing list includes many more names than these fully-paid members.

C. **Archives Committee.** Although he could not attend either, Sonnenberg submitted a written report indicating ongoing work to gather society records for deposit at the State Library and to determine sustainable ways to maintain them and accept future additions.

D. **Program Proposals.** Horton noted thoughtful program proposals made for the society by Besso and Warshauer (not present) that were included in materials circulated for the meeting, and he suggested that they be given full discussion at a future board meeting, perhaps one in June.

E. **Long-Range Planning Committee.**

1. White presented an outline and summary of conclusions reached by the board's long-range-planning workshop held on Monday, February 27, 2023.
2. He argued that in going forward with that workshop's recommendations, there was no need to reconvene the society's whole board to consider initial action steps, but that the executive committee (consisting of the society's five officers) could convene to take action on incremental matters, and then report back to the entire board to get decisions on weightier matters. It was so agreed.
3. Discussion then focused on two initial action steps that the executive committee might address:
  - a. There was strong consensus that the society needs to create an on-line method of receiving membership renewal payments, although discussion indicated lack of certainty as to how to add such a link to the society's website now hosted by the Judicial Branch. More study is needed.
  - b. There was also general agreement that hiring some sort of assistant to improve and maintain the society's website and other administrative functions would help the society's operation, but lack of agreement as to how to do it. While it was noted that there is a retired Judicial Branch employee who might be interested in such a post, discussion divided as to whether to frame such a position as an "administrative assistant" or an "executive director" and whether the society should or could fill such a post with a contractor or employee. The matter was left to the executive committee to come up with a recommendation including job description for the full board to consider.

F. **Connecticut Supreme Court History.** Horton stated that printing problems with the newest issue of the society's journal have delayed its release, but that he expected that issue will come out in the coming weeks.

VI. **Next meeting.** Monday, **September 11, 2023 at 2:00pm** in the Lawyer's Lounge of the State Library/Supreme Court Building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm for board members to join the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald W. Rogers, Secretary