MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINARY RULES AND REFERENDA

August 7, 2024 By Teleconference

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER OF THE MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Kinard called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. CDT. Ms. Low called the roll, and a quorum was present.

Members Present: Chair M. Lewis Kinard; Timothy D. Belton (arrived at 10:02 a.m. CDT); Amy Bresnen; Robert Denby; Judge Phyllis Gonzalez; Jennifer Hasley; April Lucas; and Karen Nicholson.

Members Absent: Scott Brumley

State Bar of Texas Staff Present: Ray Cantu, Deputy Executive Director; Seana Willing, Chief Disciplinary Counsel; and Andrea Low, Disciplinary Rules and Referenda Attorney.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Kinard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all who called in for their participation. He explained the Committee's purpose and mandate, directed the public to the Committee's website to find information about the Committee, and encouraged the public to participate in the process.

Chair Kinard stated that the twelve (12) rule proposals that the Bar membership voted to approve remain pending before the Supreme Court of Texas. The court has 120 days from April 30, 2024, which was the end of the voting period, to adopt or reject the rule proposals without modification. The 120-day period ends on August 28, 2024.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Chair Kinard stated that the Committee will consider the minutes of the meeting held on June 5, 2024, at the next meeting.

2023-24 YEAR-END REPORT FROM THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS TASKFORCE FOR RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE LAW (TRAIL) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Committee discussed the TRAIL report submitted to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. After discussion, the Committee agreed to monitor guidance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) as it develops and consider issues in addition to those addressed in the TRAIL Report.

The Committee took no action on this matter.

CHANGES TO THE TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE (TRDP)

Ms. Lucas reported that the subcommittee had met with Seana Willing, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and would continue to meet with her to identify and discuss possible amendments to the procedural rules.

The Committee took no action on this matter.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee members asked to include the following items on the agenda for the next meeting: 1) Preliminary Approval of Rules Governing Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals and Licensed Court-Access Assistants, which the supreme court issued on August 6, 2024; 2) Artificial Intelligence; and 3) report and/or recommendations from the subcommittee on the TRDP.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Bresnen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Denby seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m. CDT.