

**WLALA**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**- September 21, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

1. **President – Mary McKelvey (6:30 pm)**
  - a. Introduction of New Board Members
    - i. Kirra Jones
    - ii. Stephanie Peatman
    - iii. Fiammetta Piazza
    - iv. Karen Luong
  - b. Liaisons contact
    - i. EC Liaison will start to reach out to Committees re planning. Contact M. McKelvey if your EC Liaison has not reached out.
  - c. Equality California
    - i. Sheila Kuehl is being honored. WLALA was asked to be a sponsor.
      1. Event: October 2, 2021
      2. Tickets and information: <https://www.eqca.org/equality-awards/los-angeles-2021/>
  - d. Annual Sponsorships
    - i. WLALA has raised over \$140K this year through Annual Sponsorships.
    - ii. Thanks to EC and everyone who reached out to firms and other sponsors.
  - e. Awards Dinner
    - i. September 24, 2021 – Shade Hotel (Redondo Beach)
    - ii. Sold out the Awards Dinner sponsorships.
    - iii. Topic for the Panel: Women, Power, & Leadership.
2. **President Elect – Janet Hong (6:42 pm)**
  - a. Update on Award Dinner Fundraising
    - i. Raised over \$46K from the Dinner. Costs are about \$22K.
3. **First Vice President – Noelle Natoli (6:45 pm)**
  - a. Programs
    - i. Joint Task Force/LACBA: September 28, 2021. Free to attend.
      1. More info: <https://www.lacba.org/about-us-menu/lacba-committees/ad-hoc-committees/lacba-wlala-joint-task-force-on-the-retention-and-promotion-of-women-lawyers>
4. **Second Vice President/Treasurer – Jeannine Taylor (6:50 pm)**
  - a. Update on Financials
    - i. Financials are looking good. Expenses were low last year and we had a lot of programming.
    - ii. Membership numbers are up since last year (Sister Bar renewals are part of this increase).
      1. New members: biggest increase is from students.
      2. Decrease in new admittees. Possibly due to pandemic.
      3. Referrals are a great source.

5. **Secretary— Farah Tabibkhoei (6:55 pm)**
  - a. Meeting Minutes Approval
    - i. Farah Tabibkhoei moves for approval of the July 20, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Janet Hong seconds.
    - ii. Motion carries by unanimous vote.
    - iii. Farah Tabibkhoei moves for approval of the Sept. 14, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. Kirra Jones seconds.
    - iv. 1 Abstention (Andrea Schoor-West). No Opposition. Motion carries.
  - b. Website Update - + Update Bios
    - i. Website is continuing to be developed.
    - ii. Email Board Bios (including updates) and Photos to Kay for new website.
  - c. Vote on new proposed membership tiers.
    - i. Farah Tabibkhoei moves to approve proposed membership tiers. Shaun Dabby-Jacobs seconds.
    - ii. Discussion: Sarah Conway: How were the numbers derived?
      1. Fiammetta Piazza, Elaine Chang: Too much of an increase (\$50) for mid-levels who we are trying to recruit.
      2. Susan Formaker: Not sure about CWL membership fees. Concerned about raising rates now given what has happened with the pandemic.
      3. Jennifer Leland: WLALA has higher overhead, more programs than other bar associations.
    - iii. **Tabled** for next meeting. EC will review rates and take into account the comments.
6. **Communications Officer—Jennie VonCannon (7:05 pm)**
  - a. Newsletter content & Social Media ideas
    - i. Please submit content by October 1 to Jennie Wang VonCannon and Kay Burt.
7. **EBAR Committee Chair – Merle Vaughn (7:13pm)**
  - a. EBAR Survey Launch
    - i. Will launch survey next month (October 2021) at or with next newsletter.
      1. Survey is going to members of WLALA on how to improve WLALA re inclusivity.
      2. Incentives to complete the survey: A chance to win WLALA swag and free registration to events.
      3. Will see if WLALA can send a link for survey registration.
8. **Executive Administrator – Kay Burt (7:18 pm)**

**SECTION. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS/REQUESTS AND UPDATES:**

- 7:15 Hon. Laura Seigle. New member lunch at Judge Seigle’s house planned for Sunday, November 7, 2021.
- 7:20 Shaun Dabby Jacobs (CCBA Committee) – Conference on Saturday 9/25 via Zoom from 9-5pm.
  - \$25 to attend virtually. Shaun to be sworn in as Chair Elect.
  - There are still sponsorship opportunities available.
- 7:23 Ashley Price & Samantha Hernandez-Ortega (Law Student Mentoring Committee) – Request for Mentors

- Need more attorney mentor volunteers. Law student mentees outpaced the number of mentors
- Will put request in newsletter, social media.
- Would like to make an announcement before future events to request more mentor volunteers.
- Jessica Kronstadt: See whether Sister Bars will advertise the request for attorney volunteer mentors.
- 7:26 Jessica Kronstadt (Immediate Past President) - Resolution in Support of Proposals of the California Civility Task Force
  - Jessica has been working with Associate Justice Brian S. Currey re Civility Task Force. Jessica circulated a Resolution for Bar Associations to sign onto re Civility. Would make CLEs re civility mandatory.
  - Jessica Kronstadt moves to sign onto civility resolution. Laura Jane Kessner seconds.
    - 20 in favor. 0 opposed; 0 abstain. Motion carries.
    - Susan Formaker: Has seen firsthand lack of civility. What constitutes non-civility should be clearly identified.
    - Mary McKelvey: Will first review the Civility report.
- 7:30 CWL: Hon. Susan Formaker regarding CWL update.
  - CWL has a new program on 10/2/21 (1-3pm) virtually called “So you want to be a lawyer?” It is open to high school, college, and law students. Stephanie Peatman is part of the program. Email Susan.Formaker if you would like to participate in the program.
  - CWL is planning for the year ahead. Reach out to Susan if you have statewide ideas for programming.
  - 10/4/21 – Coffee and Connect, virtual networking program. Event is Free. Networking.
  - Wine Down Wednesday on 10/6/21 will be a virtual event.
- 7:37: Amicus Committee – Sarah Conway and Nadia Sarkis – Would like to get advance approval to join if Amicus Committee and EC approve after reviewing the brief, rather than having to call a special session. The National Women’s Law Center, along with law firm partner Hogan Lovells, invite WLALA to join an amicus brief to the Second Circuit in support of the ACLU in *Soule v. CIAC*, from groups committed to women's rights.
  - Nadia Sarkis moves to vote for advance approval subject to review of brief and EC approval. Sarah Conway seconds.
    - We joined last year.
    - Falls within our mandate.
    - Protects women against gender discrimination in athletics.
  - 39 approve (19 in person + 20 Zoom); 0 opposed; 9 Abstain (Jeannine Taylor, Hon. Holly Fujie, Susan Yu, Hon. Michelle DeCasas, Shelby King, Ashley Price, Stephanie Peatman, Jessica Kronstadt, Fiammetta Piazza and Susan Formaker)
  - The motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS** (7:45 pm)

Hon. Holly Fujie – Encourages board members to schedule a mammogram.

Jeannine Taylor – Breast Cancer Awareness month is next month.

Mary McKelvey: next month’s meeting will be remote. November will be in-person.

**ADJOURNED** at approx. 8:10 p.m.

# WLALA BOARD SIGN-IN 2020-2021

Date: September 21, 2021

Please Initial by your name.

#	NAME	Initial	#	NAME	Initial
1	Vanessa Adriance	Present	35	Virginia Milstead	Present
2	Marni Barta	Present	36	Noelle Natoli	Present
3	Sanaz Bereliani	Present	37	Virginia Milstead	Present
4	Lauren Birkenstock	Present	38	Noelle Natoli	Present
5	Elizabeth Bock	Present	39	Cynthia Organ	Present
6	Amy Brantly	Present	40	Samantha Hernandez-Ortega ✓	Present
7	Maria Byrum	Present	41	Cathy Ostiller ✓	
8	Indira Cameron-Bariks ✓	Present	42	Vicky Durfalian	
9	Kelsey Chandrasoma	Present	43	Krysta Pachman	Present
10	Elaine Chang	Present	44	Moena Patel	Present
11	Carol Chen	Present	45	Karen Pazzani	Present
12	Connie Chen	Present	46	Stephanie Peatman ✓	Present
13	Hon. Judith C. Chirlin (Ret)	Present	47	Fiammetta Piazza	Present
14	Sarah Conway	Present	48	Ashley Price ✓	Present
15	Michelle DeCasas	Present	49	Amy Proctor	Present
16	Hon. Susan Formaker	Present	50	Meeran Rasch	Present
17	Hon. Holly Fujie ✓	Present	51	Merete Rictveld	Present
18	Patricia Fullinwider	Present	52	Melody Saadian	Present
19	Julie Gerchik	Present	53	Nadia A Sarkis	Present
20	Samantha Hernandez-Ortega	Present	54	Arin Scapa	Present
21	Janet Hong ✓	Present	55	Andrea Schoor	Present
22	Stacy Horth-Neubert	Absent	56	Hon. Laura Seigle ✓	Present
23	Shaun Dabby Jacobs ✓	Present	57	Julie Stromberg	Present
24	Kirra Jones ✓	Present	58	Ariella Thal Simonds	Present
25	Susana Juarez	Present	59	Farah Tabikhoei ✓	Present
26	Laura Jane Kessner ✓	Present	60	Jeannine Taylor	Present
27	Neelu Khanuja	Present	61	Sungina Vachhani ✓	Present
28	Shelby King	Present	62	Merle Vaughn	Absent
29	Jessica Krcnstadt	Present	63	Jennie Wang VonCannon	Present
30	Reg Levy	Present	64	Taylor Wagniere	Present
31	Jennifer Lieser	Present	65	Jessica Walker	Present
32	Karen Luong	Present	66	Susan Yu	Present
33	Cristina Matsushima	Present	67	Cat Zhang	
34	Mary McKelvey ✓	Present			

## Racial Justice & Advisory Council

1	Brigit Greeson Alvarez	Present	5	Nina Huerta	
2	Celene Chan Andrews ✓	Present	6	Leana Taing ✓	Present

## Law Student Liaisons

1	Sydree Hertle		3	Lisa Ow	
2	Christy Madeod		4	Jaycee Yao	