

COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

Office of Court Administration
Tom C. Clark Building
205 W. 14th Street
First Floor Conference Room
Austin, Texas 78701
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
(1:30 p.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by the Hon. William Sowder, Presiding Officer, at approximately 1:32 p.m. The members present by teleconference were Judge Sowder, Molly Pela, Deborah Hamon, Robin Cooksey, Janice Eidd-Meadows, Whitney Lehmberg Riley, and Kim Tindall. The staff members present were Jeff Rinard, Michele Henricks, Scott Gibson, Tyees Holcombe, and Lesley Ondrechen.

Judge Sowder provided opening remarks and welcomed the Board members.

JBCC Director Jeff Rinard announced that Lesley Ondrechen, JBCC Licensing Manager, accepted a position with the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Ms. Ondrechen was employed by the Office of Court Administration in 2001, served as the former Director of the Guardians Certification Board, and most recently served as the JBCC Licensing Manager for the past three years.

Judge Sowder wished Ms. Ondrechen good luck with her new job.

The Board members reviewed and approved the prior Board meeting minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting.

Licensing Manager Lesley Ondrechen provided the Board with an overview of the applications for endorsement. Approved applicants are required to take the written exam. Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted on applications with Judge Sowder, Chair, abstaining from the vote. As follows:

- Celeste Poppe (California, appeared by phone) – Motion to approve failed due to lack of a second based on inexperience.
- Crystal Butler (California, appeared in person) – Approved based on California certification and experience with five in favor and one opposed.
- Kayla Lotstein (California, appeared by phone) – Application denied based on lack of experience with two in favor of approval and four opposed.
- Nicola Gengler (California, appeared in person) - Approved based on California certification and experience with five in favor and one opposed.

- Suzette Weis (Colorado, appeared by phone) – Approved by unanimous vote based on experience and Colorado certification where it was determined that test passed in 1991 was substantially equivalent to current Texas test.
- April Lassiter-Benson (Kansas, appeared by phone) – Application denied due to lapse of Kansas certification. One of the prerequisites for endorsement is that an applicant holds a certification or license issued by another state. The applicant was advised that she must sit for and pass the exam to be certified in Texas.

Molly Pela left the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

A quorum of five members continued with the meeting.

- Debra Dibble (Utah, appeared by phone) – Consideration of the application was tabled pending additional information from the applicant on the Utah 1998 test to determine whether it is substantially equivalent to the Texas test.

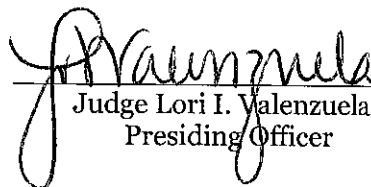
Michele Henricks, Compliance manager gave an overview of agenda item V. Review and Development of Uniform Format Manual (UFM). The following court reporter members were appointed by the Chair to serve on the UFM Subcommittee; Janice Eidd-Meadows, Chair, Kim Tindall, Debbie Hamon, Robin Cooksey and Whitney Lehmsberg Riley.

A future meeting date for the Board was not decided.

Lorrie Schnoor, Susan Perry Miller and Kayla Lotstein provided public comment.

Judge Sowder expressed that he was proud to serve on the Advisory Board and thanked the members for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.



Judge Lori I. Valenzuela
Presiding Officer

14 AUG 2018

Date