

**FINALIZED MEETING
MINUTES FROM CLA
MARCH BOARD RETREAT**



C H E S A P E A K E
LEGAL ALLIANCE

Minutes of the CLA BOARD RETREAT and Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 16, 2024

Chairman Weinberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM EDT. In attendance, in addition to Chairman Weinberg, were Vice Chair Joyce Schlesinger, Board Treasurer Skip Shipman, Board Secretary David Menotti (virtually), Deb Jennings, Stephen Kurzman, Russell Stevenson, Morgan Johnson, Lois Schiffer, Vince Leggett, Tom Barba, Patrick Coyne, Robin Leone, Richard Hinds, Rick Hoffman (virtually), Jeff Harris (BOA), and Executive Director David Reed, and CLA Staff Members MarieClaire Egbert, William Halnon, Evan Isaacson, Patrick DeArmey. There were no changes in the Agenda.

The Agenda and other documents either distributed prior to the meeting or presented and used in the meeting are in the documents file for this meeting on the Members Only section of the CLA website. All Board actions summarized below were taken in accordance with required procedures; they will be noted below simply as “approvals,” in the interests of brevity.

Mr. Weinberg explained to the Board Marty Siegel’s recent resignation from the Board but continued interest in working with CLA on Pennsylvania issues. Mr. Weinberg noted that both he and Mr. Reed had expressed to Marty the appreciation of both the Board and CLA staff for all of his efforts and support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

David Reed reported on the status of CLA as a year in review and discussed the content in the [Executive Director’s Report Presentation](#).

PRO BONO NETWORK: Will Halnon asked Board members to think about lawyers with whom they are familiar who can take on Land Use Planning Cases as part of our ProBono Network. Among other responses, Morgan Johnson asked about the geographical needs for these types of cases so that the BOD & BOA can target lawyers in those areas; Will noted that CLA has identified Virginia & Pennsylvania. Jeff Harris also urged that CLA should catalog and create an “Impact and Outcomes report” to share to the BOD & BOA for distribution.

SACKETT INITIATIVE: In response to David Reed’s description of the Sackett Initiative, Deb Jennings asked about CLA lobbying activities. Evan Isaacson explained that CLA does not lobby for clients or itself but rather helps developing, drafting and evaluating proposed legislation. CLA leaves it to its implications to do the lobbying. Discussion followed. Among other points, Vince Leggett mentioned that his contacts are focusing on EJ aspects of conservation easements as they relate to wetlands & the Sackett decision, and sought guidance from EAC Director Evan Isaacson, who agreed to provide it. Lois Schiffer observed that that the presentation was strong, and also urged inclusion of data about what the changes of

**FINALIZED MEETING
MINUTES FROM CLA
MARCH BOARD RETREAT**



C H E S A P E A K E
LEGAL ALLIANCE

protections means for pollution numbers. Evan Isaacson noted that he has been working with Duke University on that issue, with the end goal of getting that on the CLA website.

PENNSYLVANIA INITIATIVE: Interest was expressed in looking for a candidate for the Board with Pennsylvania expertise, to replace Marty Siegal.

FORMAL BOARD MEETING

Chairman Weinberg called the official Board Meeting to order at 11:13 AM EDT.

After a correction to the minutes of the December Board of Directors meeting identified by Stephen Kurzman is the Board unanimously accepted those minutes. The amended, approved version accompanies these minutes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brief updates on recent activities were provided by Executive Committee, Development Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations and Governance Committee and the Litigation Committee.

The CLA February Financial Report is included in the materials accompanying these minutes. [The Development Committee also is included in those materials. Chairman Hines urged other Board members to participate in future committee activities.](#)

The Litigation Committee reported it is developing a program to get bigger law firms involved in bringing cases addressing permit violations. It is working on a “tool box” of template forms & write ups to share to bigger law firms to boost access to cases, loosely based on a model that DLA Piper & Finnegan Law Firms have created. A trial of the program will be done with a selection of 6 to 7 firms to test out the program before a full roll out. Further development is expected to occur in time for inclusion in the forthcoming FY 2025 budget. Several Board members expressed support for the program and provided suggestions for elements to be included.

3 CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS:

David Reed confirmed that a fundraiser/15-year celebration will be held on Thursday, September 19, at DLA Piper (500 8th Street NW, Washington DC).

**FINALIZED MEETING
MINUTES FROM CLA
MARCH BOARD RETREAT**



C H E S A P E A K E
LEGAL ALLIANCE

Mr. Reed also noted that the Pennsylvania Plan he mentioned in his opening presentation is to be discussed and formally reviewed at the next ExCom meeting & presented to the full board at the next full Board Meeting.

David Reed has been asked to develop a schedule to re-engage the Board of Advisors. Widespread support among Board members for this effort was expressed.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A general discussion was held among Board members about identifying and recruiting new members of the Board and Committees.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The was adjourned at 12:30 PM EDT.