

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026
4:00 pm-6:00 pm

IN PERSON DINNER MEETING
DOUBLETREE HOTEL – FROST/HAWTHORNE ROOM
NO REMOTE OPTION
MEETING MINUTES

Present for all or part of the meeting:

Board Members: Derek Lick, Robert Lucic, Sarah Mattson Dustin, Geoffrey Gallagher, Cathy Shanelaris, Kristin Fields, Chrissy Hanisco, Gar Chiang, Bill Woodbury, Oliver Bloom, Barry Schuster, Kyle Robidas, Caroline Epperson, Jimmy Eager, Kate Mahan

NH Supreme Court Liaison: Justice Patrick Donovan

ABA Delegates: Mike Iacopino

NHBA Staff: Sarah Blodgett, Caitlin Dow, Jennifer McManus, Vince O'Brien, Holly Chandler

Guests: NHBA Legislation Committee Chair, Melissa Fales, NHBA Lobbyist Kathy Fox

A. Call to Order Derek Lick

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Lick.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS

B. Membership Status Changes Jennifer McManus

C. Minutes of November 20, 2025 Meeting Catherine Shanelaris

ACTION

On Motion: to approve the consent agenda. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

D. Legislation Committee Recommendations Melissa Fales, Chair NHBA Legislation Committee
Kathy Fox, NHBA Lobbyist

Executive Director Blodgett introduced the Legislation Committee Chair, Melissa Fales along with the NHBA Lobbyist, Kathy Fox. Executive Director Blodgett explained that though the Board rarely takes a position on a bill, due to vote at specially scheduled meeting, the NHBA submitted written testimony in opposition to HB 1825. Chair Fales thanked everyone on the Board and stated that she will explain why the Legislation Committee took certain positions on various bills it reviewed this year.

The Legislation Committee is recommending a position of Oppose on the following bills:

CACR 0020 – Relating to the Power of the Supreme and Superior Courts. Providing that such power is repealed. She explained that the Legislation Committee voted to recommend a position of Oppose on this bill due to its impact on the administration of justice. Ms. Fox reported that the House Judiciary Committee voted the bill inexpedient to legislate (ITL). It has not yet been voted on by the full House. President Lick asked whether bills voted ITL at the committee level still go to the full House for a vote. Ms. Fox responded in the affirmative.

CACR 0023 – Relative to Legislative Oversight of the Judicial Branch, Establishing Legislative Oversight of the Judicial Branch. Chair Fales reported that the Committee recommended a position of Oppose on this bill because of the impact on the administration of justice.

HB 1087- Relative to Citizen's Arrest by Private Persons – Chair Fales shared the Committee's concern that this bill would create significant changes to current criminal law. There was a concern that it would result in diminishment of law and order. The Committee recommended a position of Oppose for these reasons.

HB 1509 Relative to Judicial Immunity and Permitting Civil Actions against Judicial Officers for certain Criminal Bail Decisions – Chair Fales explained that the Committee recommended a position of Oppose on this bill, as they believed this would put judges in an untenable position.

HB 1550 – Requiring Marital Masters, Arbitrators, Mediators, and Judicial Referees to be Commissioned as a Justice of the Peace as a Qualification for Such Positions – Chair Fales shared the Committee's concern that the proposed process would politicize these judicial branch positions. There is general concern that conditioning the eligibility of individuals to serve as neutral judicial branch employees on a gubernatorial commission could create the perception that these roles are subject to political influence. This bill is scheduled for a hearing on February 25.

HB 1717 – Relative to the Jurisdiction of the Circuit Court, Family Division – Chair Fales explained that the Committee recommended a position of Oppose on this bill because it would reshape the family division in a significant way and would revamp the entire family court system. The Committee felt that there would be significant upheaval and increased cost which would impact the administration of justice. The House did vote ITL on this bill.

HB 1825 – Relative to the Regulation of the Practice of Law, Establishing an Independent Legal Licensing Board, and Making an Appropriation Therefor – Director Blodgett commented that this bill has already been discussed by the Board of Governors in a special meeting. Director Blodgett and President Lick submitted a letter to the House Committee stating the Board's position. Kathy Fox attended the House meeting and commented that it was interesting; there was very little debate on this bill. Representative Lynn stated that he believed the bill was unconstitutional and that he had concerns about the impact on the access to justice.

The Legislation Committee is recommending a position of Support on the following bills:

HB 1489- Relative to Interstate Depositions and Discovery – The Committee believed this bill appears to standardize the statute regarding depositions and discovery to bring New Hampshire in line with other states. It is one of only a handful of states that does not have this uniform act in place, and this has caused issues in

the past.

The Legislation Committee is recommending a position of Information Negative on the following bills:

CACR 0027 – Relating to the Authority to Establish Courts Provided that the Sole Authority Lies within the General Court - Chair Fales explained that this bill is regarding the authority of the Legislature to establish Courts. It is similar to another proposed bill. The Committee felt that this bill was defective due to drafting issues. Ms. Fox stated that the House Committee voted this bill ITL 17-0.

HB 1116- Relative to Judicial Privilege and Relative to the Litigation of Small Claims – The Committee thought the wording on this bill could be problematic. It would be confusing to carve out only criminal cases in this legislation and not make any provisions for civil cases. The second part of the bill requires a defendant to be notified within 10 days. Chair Fales stated that the Committee was concerned as often is the case, the Legislature was mandating the Court to do things but didn't provide funding. The Court has finite resources. Ms. Fox did state that the House committee voted ITL.

HB 1139 – Relative to Criminal Trespass on Secured Premises – The Committee expressed concern about a provision in the bill in subsection 4, that might be more appropriately included in another statute. Ms. Fox stated that the House killed the bill on February 12.

HB 1501- Limiting Judicial Immunity – The Committee felt that the language in this statute was confusing and the bill had drafting inconsistencies in it. Ms. Fox stated the House voted ITL on this bill.

HB 1687 – Removing the Power of Courts within the Judicial Branch Family Division to Issue Criminal Determinations, Judgements, and Penalties - This bill would remove power from the family court division. The Committee was concerned about this bill and the effect on the administration of justice.

HB 1715 – Relative to the Electronic Filing of Domestic Violence and Stalking Petition Case Documents – The Committee felt that this bill would make it difficult for people to access the courts if they do not have access to a computer. Also, in the cases of domestic violence it may be easier for someone to walk into the court to file an order. The committee would have preferred both options be included in the bill. Kathy stated that the House voted ITL on this bill.

SB 0420 – Relative to the State Commission for Human Rights – The Committee felt that the commission would not function to its best ability without attorneys included in its membership. Ms. Fox stated that Senate will be sending this bill to interim study.

SB 0625 - Permitting Family Members of Homicide Victims to Seek an Evidentiary Hearing in Cases where the Department of Justice does not File Charges in the Case – Chair Fales explained that if this bill was passed, the court would conduct the investigation and the judges could be disqualified in the process. The committee felt this would not be helpful from a criminal law perspective and would not be consistent with the administration of law.

The Legislation Committee is recommending a position of Information Positive on the following bills:

HB 1156 – Requiring that Probate Court Notices of Acquisitions of Real Estate through Inheritance or Similar Devise be Recorded in a County's Registry of Deeds – The Committee was surprised that there was not

provision for this notice in current law. The bill would require a notice sent to the registry of deeds, but the Committee thought that the Court should approve the transfer first and then have it go directly to the registry of deeds in case of fraud.

President Lick asked the Board to vote on these bills, as well as whether there were any other bills that the Board should be aware of. There was a question on ***HB 1608 – Relative to Grand Jury minutes and Relative to the Defense and Indemnification of Certain Government Officers and Employees*** – if you look at the bill, there are no requirements or guidelines on how notes should be taken. This could pose an issue as the note taking could be inconsistent; there needs to be guidelines put in place on how notes should be taken and what they should reflect. There was also a question on ***HB 1003 – Prohibiting the Grafton County attorney from Engaging in the Private Practice of Law*** – Chair Fales explained that this bill is not directed at the Grafton County attorney; and that 7 out of 10 counties in New Hampshire have the same provision.

There was also a question on ***HB 1639 – Establishing Investigatory Grand Juries Housed under the County Sheriffs’ Offices*** – Kathy stated that the House did an interim study vote which passed.

President Lick asked whether the Board should adopt a motion to approve these bills? Executive Director Blodgett gave a little history on how the Board has done this in the past. The Board generally takes action on the Legislation Committee’s recommendations bill by bill. She suggested that the Board vote on each bill.

ACTIONS

CACR 0020 – Relating to the Power of the Supreme and Superior Courts. Providing that such power is repealed. Motion to adopt the Legislation Committee’s position of Oppose. Passed unanimously.

CACR 0023 – Relative to Legislative Oversight of the Judicial Branch, Establishing Legislative Oversight of the Judicial Branch. – Motion to adopt the Legislation Committee’s position of Oppose. Passed unanimously.

HB 1087- Relative to Citizen’s Arrest by Private Persons The Board discussed whether to adopt the Legislation Committee’s recommended position. Sarah Mattson Dustin asked whether the Board needs to vote, since this bill is dead. There was a discussion on how there would be no substantial unanimity among the Bar. The Board ultimately decided that they would adopt the Committee’s position. Motion to adopt the Legislation Committee’s position of Oppose. Passed unanimously.

HB 1509 Relative to Judicial Immunity and Permitting Civil Actions against Judicial Officers for certain Criminal Bail Decisions Motion to adopt the Legislation Committee’s position of Oppose. Passed unanimously.

HB 1550 – Requiring Marital Masters, Arbitrators, Mediators, and Judicial Referees to be Commissioned as a Justice of the Peace as a Qualification for Such Positions There was discussion on this bill, there is a hearing coming up and the Board may want to provide testimony on this bill. There was also discussion that it would be useful to have direction about what information to provide to the House Committee. There was also discussion on perhaps waiting to see if the bill dies. Motion to adopt the Legislation Committee’s position of Oppose. Passed unanimously. Director Blodgett explained that she can start crafting the letter for testimony, which would be sent from the President.

HB 1717 – Relative to the Jurisdiction of the Circuit Court, Family Division – Motion: Oppose. Passed unanimously.

HB 1489- Relative to Interstate Depositions and Discovery – Motion: Support. Passed unanimously.

President Lick asked if the Information Negative bills need to be voted on individually. Director Blodgett stated in the past the Board has voted on the entire slate.

ACTION

On Motion: to adopt the Legislation Committee’s recommended position of Information Negative bills on the bills listed below.

CACR 0027 – Relating to the Authority to Establish Courts Provided that the Sole Authority Lies within the General Court, HB 1116- Relative to Judicial Privilege and Relative to the Litigation of Small Claims, HB 1139 – Relative to Criminal Trespass on Secured Premises, HB 1501- Limiting Judicial Immunity, HB 1687 – Removing the Power of Courts within the Judicial Branch Family Division to Issue Criminal Determinations, Judgements, and Penalties, HB 1715 – Relative to the Electronic Filing of Domestic Violence and Stalking Petition Case Documents, SB 0420 – Relative to the State Commission for Human Rights, SB 0625 - Permitting Family Members of Homicide Victims to Seek an Evidentiary Hearing in Cases where the Department of Justice does not File Charges in the Case

ACTION

On Motion: to adopt the Legislation Committee’s recommendation of Information Positive on HB 1156. Passed unanimously.

HB 1156 – Requiring that Probate Court Notices of Acquisitions of Real Estate through Inheritance or Similar Devise by Recorded in a County’s Registry of Deeds

ACTION

On Motion: to adopt the Legislation Committee’s recommendation of No Position on the rest of the slate as presented. Passed unanimously.

President Lick thanked Legislation Committee Chair Melissa Fales and Lobbyist Kathy Fox for their hard work this year, it is monumental work sifting through all these bills. There was a question raised about the bill raising the retirement age to 75 for judges. Justice Donovan stated that there is currently a cap at 70. The CACR was voted ITL. Chair Fales and Ms. Fox left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

E. Ethics Committee Comment to Rule 1.7-Harsh Reality

Ethics Committee member Geoff Gallagher explained that the Ethics Committee is revising part of its comment to this rule. The purpose of this revised comment is to bring the comment in line with how the Supreme Court has discussed attorney’s issues under Rule 1.7. It is a long comment, but shorter than the original draft. It provides leading cases on this issue. There are citations to the rule that deal with corporate representations. There was much time spent revising it. The Harsh Reality test is how the New Hampshire Supreme Court refers to the concept about the rule, rather than referencing the academic material. The Board needs to either vote to adopt this amendment to the comment or send it back to the Ethics Committee for more work. President Lick asked for comments from the Board. The Board pointed out a few typos and also added that the cases were helpful examples.

ACTION

On Motion: to adopt the amendment to the Ethics Committee Comment to Rule 1.7 – Harsh Reality. Passed unanimously.

F. Treasurer’s Report

Geoff Gallagher/Jennifer McManus

Treasurer Gallagher stated that not much has changed from last month. The new fee that we sought to collect from LRS clients was not able to be collected consistently, due to a data systems problem on our end. The money is being returned to those it was collected from, and the line items will be adjusted next month. CLE is continuing to trend as expected. The budget season is starting soon. President Lick asked if there is anything that stands out that we should pay attention to. Controller Jennifer McManus stated that we are doing very well, we continue to monitor the LRS revenue stream, as the percentage of fees from LRS are well ahead of budget.

ACTION

On Motion: to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Passed unanimously.

G. ABA Day - **ACTION ITEM**

Sarah Blodgett

Director Blodgett stated that ABA Day is coming up at the end of March. This is an annual event sponsored and organized by the ABA to concentrate advocacy efforts. The ABA delegates, Director Blodgett and the Bar President will meet with our congressional delegation and talk about areas of importance that affect the practice of law. Last year they were able to meet face to face with everyone but Senator Shaheen. ABA State Delegate Jennifer Parent attended last year, when there was discussion on increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). It did not get a significant cut, but we are advocating this year for increased funding going forward. This money funds civil legal aid. This year’s bill has passed the Senate is in the House but has not been acted on yet. The other topic to be discussed this year is judicial safety. While the U.S. Marshals Service monitors, addresses and develops best practices to handle threats against federal judges, there is no similar watchdog for state and local court judges. The state and judicial threat database being proposed would have a state version of that. There is a pending bill to establish, implement, and operate a state judicial threat and intelligence resource center within the existing State Justice Institute to collect and assess data on the nature and extent of these threats so that best practices can be developed, adapted, and implemented in state courts nationwide. This bill is critical and hopefully will go forward. Senator Shaheen was instrumental on this, and the Bar would like to advocate for these two issues. The Board discussed whether this was a big problem for NH judges. Justice Donovan stated that family court judges, especially in cases involving children, often receive threats. President Lick and Director Blodgett are planning on attending. It is important to have face-to-face meetings with our delegation. It’s also important to meet other people from different states who deal with the same issues. ABA Association Delegate Mike Iacopino will try to go this year.

ACTION

On Motion: to support attendance at the ABA Day events. Passed unanimously.

H. Board Election Plans

Bob Lucic

Director Blodgett explained that we are gearing up for the Board Elections. The deadline to send in a petition for open positions is March 1. We received a petition for the Belknap County seat from someone who is not

currently on the Board and our sitting Belknap County Governor has also submitted a petition. We let that individual know that there are two open Governor-at-Large positions as well. Kyle Robidas has submitted a petition for one of the Governor-at-Large positions. We also have a vacant Hillsborough North seat. Bob Lucic will speak to someone he works with. We are starting to put feelers out for the Vice President opening.

I. President’s Report

Derek Lick

President Lick stated that he is very excited about the Mid-Year meeting tomorrow. Justice Donovan asked how many people are expected, and it was reported there should be about 430 members present. The speakers are ready and some are speaking tonight at another event as well. President Lick commented that there is funding for the High School Civics transportation which will be taken out of the Special President’s line in the budget. This will allow us to fund an extra 2 sets of kids travelling to the national competition. He is glad that the civics program is getting a breath of fresh air. There was a survey sent out about civics engagement for attorneys, and we received about 300 people responses The organizations and groups that they volunteered for is lengthy.

Executive Director’s Report

There is a Get Well card for Debbie that is being passed around to the Board members to sign, and the Board will be sending flowers to her as well. This expense was approved by the Officers, prior to the meeting of the full board. The Special Committee on Public Interest Lawyers is happy that the Board approved the CLE scholarship program. Bob Lucic and the Chief Justice will be co-chairing a committee on practice readiness based on the issues noted in the CLEAR report. It should be up and running shortly. Kentucky just passed legislation to deunify their Bar Association. It passed the House by a huge margin and is on the way to the Senate.

J. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly S. Chandler

Holly S. Chandler for Catherine E. Shanelaris, Secretary

New Hampshire Bar Association
Membership Status Changes
Presented to the Board of Governors February 19, 2026
Status Changes January 8, 2026 - February 11, 2026

Bar ID	Name	Old Status	New Status	Effective Date
13874	Attorney Anthony Delyani	Active	Inactive Retired	01/01/2026
20917	Attorney Jamie A. Rogers	Active	Inactive	01/23/2026
276877	Attorney Erin Kathryn Naylor	Active	Inactive	01/19/2026
9997	Attorney Stephen P. Girdwood	Active	Suspended	01/16/2026
12518	Attorney Kurt S. Olson	Active	Suspended	01/29/2026
269267	Attorney Steven D. DiLibero	Active	Suspended	01/14/2026
568	Hon. Bruce Francis DalPra	Honorary Inactive	Honorary Active	01/21/2026

1461	Attorney Michael P. Lehman	Inactive Retired	Honorary Inactive	11/30/2025
9626	Attorney Sharon F. Fearey	Inactive	Active	02/06/2026
20635	Attorney Michael C. Forrest	Inactive	Active	02/02/2026
273037	Attorney Leonard Garfield Crossman Jr.	Inactive	Active	02/04/2026
280455	Attorney Rugen Zangl Taylor	Inactive	Active	01/08/2026
10594	Attorney Dean A. Schwartz	Inactive	Inactive Retired	02/02/2026
21098	LCDR Philip E. Breuder	Inactive	Military Active	01/08/2026
17543	Attorney Michael T. McInerny	Inactive	Resigned	01/08/2026
17549	Attorney Noel M. Spear	Inactive	Resigned	02/01/2026
266290	Attorney Camden Deane Hillas	Suspended	Inactive	01/12/2026