

TITLE 6. GOVERNANCE

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DIVISION 2. MEETINGS

Chapter 1. Meetings of the Board of Governors

Rule 6.50 Regular and special meetings; quorum; board committees

- (A) Regular meetings of the Board of Governors and board committees are held between annual meetings of the State Bar and calendared by board resolution.
- (B) [inserted text begin]Board committees subject to these rules include standing committees appointed by the President and advisory committees, commissions and subcommittees consisting of three or more board members if created by formal action of the board or a member of the board as authorized by these rules.[inserted text end]
- (C) (B) Between regular meetings, special meetings [deleted text begin]of the board [deleted text end]are called by the President or [deleted text begin]twelve governors[deleted text end][inserted text begin]a majority[inserted text end] of the board¹ and special meetings of board [deleted text begin]committees are called by their chairs[deleted text end][inserted text begin]or board committee[inserted text end]. Special meetings include [deleted text begin]unnoticed[deleted text end][inserted text begin]special and[inserted text end] emergency meetings [deleted text begin]permitted[deleted text end][inserted text begin]called with shortened notice[inserted text end] under these rules² and meetings of the board called by the Secretary under rule 6.42.
- (D) (C) A quorum is a majority of the board or a board committee. A meeting must have a quorum to convene and to take official action. If the quorum is lost because members subsequently depart, the meeting may continue and the body may take official action by a majority of the quorum.
- (E) (D) Meetings of the board and board committees must be held at the State Bar offices in San Francisco or Los Angeles, absent a

¹ See also Bus. & Prof. Code § 6027.

² State Bar rule [deleted text begin]6.51(B)[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.5 2[inserted text end].

majority vote of the board to meet elsewhere in California or a two-thirds vote to meet outside the state.

[deleted text begin](E) Board committees[deleted text end]

(1) [deleted text begin]Standing committees[deleted text end]^{[deleted text begin]3[deleted text end]}[deleted text begin]of the Board of Governors are appointed by the President subject to the approval of the board. [deleted text end]

(2) [deleted text begin]For open meetings of a board committee and those closed under Business & Professions Code section 6026.5,[deleted text end][inserted text begin](F)[inserted text end] Governors who are not members of [deleted text begin]the[deleted text end][inserted text begin]a board[inserted text end] committee may attend and participate, but they may not vote. If a quorum of board members is present at a board committee meeting, the meeting is a meeting of the board as a whole but no formal action by the full board may take place.

Rule 6.50 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

Rule 6.51 [deleted text begin]Notice,[deleted text end][inserted text begin]Noticeand[inserted text end] late items[deleted text begin], and emergency meetings[deleted text end]

(A) Notice of meetings

(1) Notice of regular and special meetings of the board and board committees must be posted on the State Bar Web site [deleted text begin]and available in the lobbies of the State Bar's offices in [deleted text end]San Francisco and Los Angeles no fewer than [deleted text begin]five[deleted text end][inserted text begin]ten[inserted text end] days before the meeting[inserted text begin], unless a special meeting is called with less notice for one of the authorized purposes set forth in these rules[inserted text end]. The notice must include the date and place of the meeting, [deleted text begin]its[deleted text end][inserted text begin]the[inserted text end] agenda, and [deleted text begin]its[deleted text end][inserted text begin]the[inserted text end] starting time.[inserted text begin] The agenda must contain a general description of the items of business to be transacted or

[deleted text begin]³ Board of Governors' Resolution, October 2001 Action Plan/Report.[deleted text end]

discussed in either open or closed session. A general description of an item need not exceed twenty words. No item may be added to the agenda subsequent to the provision of notice, unless otherwise permitted by these rules.[inserted text end]

(2) Notice of [deleted text begin]special [deleted text end]meetings by teleconference must include the location at the State Bar's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices where the public may access the teleconference[inserted text begin] and a call in number to allow interested members of the public to join the teleconference[inserted text end].

(3) Notice of meetings of board committees must include the following statement:

The Rules of the State Bar permit board members who are not committee members to participate but not vote in a board committee meeting. If a quorum of board members is present, the meeting is a meeting of the board as a whole but no formal action by the full board may take place.[deleted text begin]4[deleted text end][inserted text begin]³[inserted text end]

(4) Any person may subscribe to receive notice of meetings by e-mail or first class mail. Subscriptions must be renewed annually. [deleted text begin]The Secretary may charge reasonable fees to those requesting notice by mail.[deleted text end]

(B) No item may be added to an agenda after the [deleted text begin]five[deleted text end][inserted text begin]ten[inserted text end]-day notice period and no meeting may be called without notice except in an emergency. An emergency means those circumstances that call for immediate action before the next regular meeting of the board [deleted text begin] or board committee [deleted text end]. If an emergency can be resolved by unanimous consent without discussion, the board [deleted text begin] or board committee [deleted text end] may act by fax poll, [deleted text begin] email [deleted text end], or other electronic means without meeting. A report of action taken in emergencies must be made at the next regular meeting and indicated on its agenda.[inserted text begin]unless:[inserted text end]

[deleted text begin]⁴ State Bar rule 6.50(E)(2).[deleted text end]

- (C) [inserted text begin](1) a majority of the board or board committee votes that an emergency exists, as defined in Rule 6.52(B); or[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin](2) two-thirds of the board or board committee, or if less than two-thirds are present, all those present, vote that there is a need to take immediate action subsequent to the agenda being posted pursuant to this rule; and[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin](3) notice of the additional item is posted on the State Bar's web site and also provided to each member of the board or board committee and to all persons who have requested notice of meetings as soon as practicable after addition of the item, provided that the notice is transmitted at least forty-eight hours before the meeting. [inserted text end]

Rule 6.51 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

[inserted text begin]Rule 6.52 Special and emergency meetings[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (A) Special meetings[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (1) A special meeting may be called by the President or a majority of the board or a board committee with less than ten days notice for one of the following purposes if compliance with the ten-day requirement would impose substantial hardship or immediate action is required to protect the public interest for any of the following reasons:[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (a) to consider pending litigation;[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (b) to consider proposed legislation;[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (c) to consider issuance of a legal opinion;[inserted text end]

- [inserted text begin] (d) to consider disciplinary action involving a public officer or employee;[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin] (e) to consider the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property;[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin] (f) to consider license examinations and applications;[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin] (g) to consider its response to a confidential final draft audit report from the Bureau of State Audits;[inserted text end]
- [inserted text begin] (h) to provide for an interim Executive director upon the death, or incapacity of the executive director, or a vacancy in that office.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (2) Notice of a special meeting called for one of the purposes specified above, must be provided to each member of the board or board committee, to all parties that have requested notice of meetings, and to all media routinely contacted as soon as practicable after the decision to have a special meeting has been made, and provided that the notice is transmitted at least forty-eight hours before the special meeting. Notice must also be posted[inserted text end] on the [State Bar Web](#) [inserted text begin] site. The notice must comply with Rule 6.51 (A)(1).[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (3) At the commencement of a special meeting, the board or board committee in open session must make a finding, supported by specific facts, that the delay necessitated by providing a ten-day notice would cause substantial hardship or that immediate action is required to protect the public interest. The finding must be adopted by a two-thirds vote if all members are present, or by a unanimous vote if fewer are present, a unanimous vote of the members present. The finding must be posted on the State Bar Web site. Failure to adopt the finding terminates the meeting.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (B) Emergency meetings[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (1) In the case of an emergency requiring prompt action due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the board or a board committee may hold an emergency meeting without complying with the notice requirements of these rules, provided that[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](a) all media routinely contacted are provided notice by telephone no less than an hour before the meeting; and[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](b) the notice is posted on the State Bar Web site as soon as possible after the decision to call the emergency meeting has been made.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (2) For purposes of this rule, “emergency” means the following, as determined by a majority of the members of the board or board committee during a meeting prior to the emergency meeting, or at the beginning of the emergency meeting:[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (a) work stoppage or other activity that severely impairs public health or safety; or.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (b) a crippling disaster that severely impairs public health or safety:[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (c) or both.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (3) As soon after the emergency meeting as practicable, the minutes of the meeting, a list of those provided notice, a copy of the rollcall vote finding grounds for emergency as required by Rule 6.52(B)(2), and any action taken at the meeting must be posted for a minimum of ten days in the[inserted text end] San Francisco and Los Angeles [inserted text begin] offices of the State Bar and on the State Bar Web site.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin]Rule 6.53 Conditions to attendance; audio or video recording of proceedings; opportunity for public address[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](A) Attendees at a meeting of the board or board committee must comply with standard building security procedures, but otherwise no person may be required, as a condition of admission to the meeting room, to register his or her name, provide other information, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to attendance. If an attendance list, register or similar document is circulated or posted, it must state clearly that completion of the document is voluntary and not required.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (B) Any person attending a board or board committee meeting has the right to record the proceedings unless the board or board committee reasonably finds that the recording cannot be made without a persistent disruption of the proceedings.[inserted text end]

[inserted text begin] (C) The State Bar must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the board or a board committee on each agenda item. This requirement is not applicable if the item has already been considered by the board or board committee at a public meeting where the public was afforded the opportunity to address the committee regarding the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since that meeting. The State Bar may establish reasonable conditions for public comment such as its place on the agenda and the time allocated for any and all speakers. The State Bar may not prohibit public criticism of its policies, programs or services. Nothing in this rule confers any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law. This provision does not apply to closed sessions of the board or board committees.[inserted text end]

Rule ~~6.52~~^{6.54} Open meetings

(A) For purposes of these rules, “meeting” includes any gathering of a majority of the members of the Board of Governors or board committee at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the jurisdiction of the board or board committee, except for:

(1) meetings of other state, local, or private entities, conferences, or social or ceremonial occasions, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board or board committee

(2) the attendance of a majority of the members of the board at a board committee meeting, if those who are not members of the committee attend, but do not vote.

(B) Except as permitted by these rules or by law, meetings of the Board of Governors and board committees must be conducted openly where the public may attend and hear the discussions.

A majority of the board or a majority of a board committee is prohibited from otherwise discussing in person, by the use of technology, or directly or indirectly by any other means, matters within the ~~jurisdiction~~^{purview} of the board or board committee.

(B) A meeting of the board or a board committee may be conducted by teleconference, provided ~~that~~^{the public may} call in to the teleconference or listen to the teleconference at the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the State Bar. Votes taken during a teleconference meeting must be by roll call.

(C) If a meeting is willfully disrupted and order cannot be restored, the disruptive individuals may be removed and the meeting continue. ~~The press or other news media,~~

⁵~~See B&P Code § 6026.5.~~⁴

except those who have participated in the disturbance, may continue to attend the meeting.[deleted text end]

Rule 6.52 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

Rule [deleted text begin]6.53[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.55[inserted text end] Closed sessions

- (A) The board and board committees may meet in closed sessions [deleted text begin]under[deleted text end][inserted text begin]as provided by[inserted text end] section 6026.5 of the Business and Professions Code. In addition, a board committee [deleted text begin] when not meeting as a committee of the whole [deleted text end] may meet in closed or executive session not open to the public for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) to receive advice of counsel or to consider matters privileged under the law;
 - (2) to confer with a State Bar representative during negotiations with union and non-union employees; or
 - (3) to confer with a State Bar representative before the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property.
- (B) Before going into closed session, the President, committee chair, or governor presiding over the meeting, must state the legal authority and reasons for the closed session. In the closed session, only matters [deleted text begin] covered by [deleted text end][inserted text begin]within[inserted text end] the [inserted text begin]scope of that[inserted text end] statement may be considered.
- (C) The Secretary [deleted text begin] or designated staff [deleted text end] must keep confidential minutes and records of the closed sessions.

Rule 6.53 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

Rule [deleted text begin] 6.54[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.56[inserted text end] Board records

- (A) Agendas, minutes of open meetings, and written materials considered in any discussion or action by the board or board committees during open sessions, are public records[deleted text begin]. The Secretary may make these records available [deleted text end] on the State Bar Web [deleted text begin]site[deleted text end]

end]. Any person may receive a printed copy of these records upon request and payment of reasonable fees for the cost of reproduction and mailing. Nothing in this rule requires disclosure of records for which disclosure is exempt or prohibited by law.

- (B) Any recording of an open meeting made under these rules will be available for inspection for up to thirty days after the date of recording.

Rule 6.54 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

TITLE 6. GOVERNANCE

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DIVISION 2. MEETINGS

Chapter 2. Meetings of State Bar Committees

Rule 6.60 In general

[Deleted text begin]Unless these rules provide otherwise, rules applicable to meetings of the Board of Governors apply to meetings of Board-appointed [Deleted text begin]committees that act on its behalf (in this chapter, “Board-appointed bodies”) These committees are listed in Appendix B. [Deleted text end] [inserted text begin] Meetings of the committees the Board of Governors appoints to act on its behalf (in this chapter “board-appointed bodies”) are governed by the rules that apply to meetings of the board, except for rules 6.50(A), (B), (C), (E), (F), 6.51, 6.52, and 6.53. These board-appointed bodies are listed in Appendix B. [inserted text end]

Rule 6.60 adopted effective May 15, 2009.

Rule 6.61 Open meeting policy

Meetings of Board-appointed bodies are open to the public unless closed pursuant to rule or law. Meeting space for members of the public may be limited and the State Bar is not obligated to provide seating for all members of the public in attendance.

Rule 6.61 adopted effective May 15, 2009.

Rule 6.62 Location of meetings

Meetings of Board-appointed bodies should be held in California. Meetings may be held outside of California in special circumstances when approved by the Executive Director or his or her designee.

Rule 6.62 adopted effective March 4, 2011.

[inserted text begin]Rule 6.63 Notice, late items, and emergency meetings [inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](A) Notice of meetings [inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](1) Notice of regular [inserted text end] and special meetings of board [inserted text begin]-appointed bodies must be posted on the State Bar Web

site no fewer than five days before the meeting. The notice must include the date and place of the meeting, the agenda, and the starting time. [inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](2) Notice of special meetings by teleconference must include the location at the State Bar's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices where the public may access the teleconference. [inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](3) Any person may subscribe to receive notice of meetings by e-mail or first class mail. Subscriptions must be renewed annually. [inserted text end]

[inserted text begin](B) No item may be added to an agenda after the five-day notice period and no meeting may be called without notice except in an emergency. An emergency means those circumstances that call for immediate action before the next regular meeting of the board-appointed body. If an emergency can be resolved by unanimous consent without discussion, the board-appointed body may act by fax poll, e-mail, or other electronic means without meeting. A report of action taken in emergencies must be made at the next regular meeting and indicated on its agenda.

Rule 6.63 adopted effective _____. [inserted text end]

Rule ~~[deleted text begin]6.63[deleted text end]~~[inserted text begin]6.64[inserted text end] Closed sessions

- (A) In addition to the rules governing meetings of the Board of Governors, a Board-appointed body may also meet in closed session to discuss, deliberate, or take action upon
- (1) matters designated confidential by its charge, these rules, or otherwise by law;
 - (2) matters related to the character, competence, or physical or mental health of an individual;
 - (3) allegations of criminal or professional misconduct;
 - (4) applications, petitions, requests, investigations, opinions, complaints, recommendations, or reports regarding specific cases or programs;
 - (5) proposals, negotiations, or discussions related to contractual, labor, business, or legislative matters;
 - (6) matters related to the development, administration, or grading of an examination; or
 - (7) matters relating to internal management of the Board-appointed body.

- (B) State Bar staff and others who are reasonably necessary for consideration of a closed session matter may attend the closed session at the discretion of the body's chair.

Rule [deleted text begin]6.63[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.64[inserted text end] adopted effective May 15, 2009.

Rule [deleted text begin]6.64[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.65[inserted text end] Committee records exempt from disclosure

- (A) The following records are exempt from disclosure:
- (1) Records directly relating to matters that would be exempt from disclosure at meetings of the Board or a board committee.
 - (2) Records exempt or prohibited from disclosure by court decisions, Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, federal or state law relating to privilege and privacy.
 - (3) Written memoranda prepared for the Board-appointed body by the Office of General Counsel, or outside counsel, related to advice, litigation, or claims.
 - (4) Drafts, notes, or memoranda which are not distributed in the course of committee business.
- (B) Nothing in these rules prevents the board from opening records to public inspection, unless disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.
- (C) The Board-appointed body must cite the express authority under which the record is exempt from disclosure.

Rule [deleted text begin]6.64[deleted text end][inserted text begin]6.65[inserted text end] adopted effective May 15, 2009.