



Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Location: State Courts Building
 Conference Rm 109/ZOOM
 1501 West Washington Street
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting Video Recording: [ZOOM ABS Meeting 10/8/2024](#) Passcode: HgW3%P@M

For any item listed on the agenda, the Board may vote to go into Executive Session for advice of counsel (under ACJA Sec. 1-202(C)(5)(c)) or for discussion or consideration of records or matters made confidential or privileged by statute, court rule, or the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (under ACJA Sec. 1-202(C)(5)(b))

Note: Vote counts reflect ayes-nays-not voting-recused

Member Attendance	In Person	Zoom	Absent
Hon. Anni Hill Foster (Chair)	X		
Hon. Charles Harrington (Vice Chair) (Retired)		X	
Katie Bryant	X		
Steve German		X	
John Hay	X		
Andy Kvesic	X		
Lynda Shely	X		
Martin Shultz	X		
Mike Widener			X
Tracy Ward		X	
Patrick Barnes	X		

Staff	Guest	Guest	Guest
Aaron Nash	Nathan Sumekh	Matthew Bycer	Ryan
Marquita Brazil	Barry Mitchell	Katie Giel	KC
Ryan Lincoln	Kiren Choudhry	Whitney Haring-Smith	William Vacek
Daisy Cambron-Perez	Krista Jolwette	SBS	Mark Sullivan
Lindsey Bailey	Cecilia Dubravec	Javier Chamorro	Carson Brienza
	Jason Brown	Andy Haywood	Kathy Brody
	Bob Bearden	Avi	David
	Madeline Basha	Cathryn Paine	Carl Engstrand
	IPhone	Carolina Johnson	Suzanne Porter
	Reid Potter	Blanca Duenas	Five Note Taker AI
	Jonny Basha	Laura Ruhl	Jared Colcord
	IPhone	Robin Newman	
	Sherry Metzger	XYZ	

1) **Call To Order**.....*Hon. Anni Hill Foster (Chair)*

Discussion: Opening remarks from the chair regarding goal setting for the upcoming year.

2) **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**..... **Hon. Anni Hill Foster (Chair)**

2-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding approval of changes to the regular session minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2024.*

Motion: Approve the regular session minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting.

Motion Proposals: First: John Hay
Second: Martin Shultz

Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3-0

3) **Initial License Applications****Division Staff**

3-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding application for initial licensure as an alternative business structure for the following applicants with the following conditions:*

- i. *ABSs compliance lawyer shall conduct semi-annual audits to review the firm’s compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rule 33.1, ACJA § 7-209, and its internal policies and procedures and at the completion of each audit prepare and retain a written report of the findings.*
- ii. *Pursuant to Rule 33.1, upon the Committee’s determination of whether to recommend licensure, the application and the Committee’s determination shall be forwarded to the Supreme Court for review and further action.*

Tracy Ward enters via Zoom 10:05am

1. Sterling Shield Legal, LLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

1. Sterling Shield Legal, LLC

Discussion: Compliance Lawyer Harold D. Dawson and Authorized Person William Vacek were not present to address the Committee. Member Lynda Shely expressed that she had questions for the Authorized Person (AP) and Compliance Lawyer (CL) regarding their experience, noting that specifics about their practice areas are needed.

Motion: Recommend continuing this matter to the next meeting on November 12, 2024.

Motion Proposals: First: Lynda Shely
Second: John Hay

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2-0

4) **Renewal License Applications****Daisy Cambron-Perez**

4-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding application for renewal licensure as an alternative business structure for the following applicants:*

1. G Law Services, LLC (License #70139) –
Licensure Period August 2024- August 2026

Discussion: Member Lynda Shely stated that the Compliance Lawyer (CL) was unaware of the renewal and that it would be included on this month’s agenda. The CL had closing arguments on October 8, 2024. Division staff member Marquita Brazil noted that the CL had been informed on October 4, 2024, about the renewal being on the agenda, and the CL subsequently requested to have the matter moved to the November meeting.

Motion: Member Patrick Barnes recommended continuing this matter to the next meeting on November 12, 2024.

Motion Proposals: First: Patrick Barnes
Second: Andy Kvesic

Recused: Lynda Shely

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-1-1

Steve German enters via Zoom 10:10am

2. PatentVest, Inc. (License #70144)
Licensure Period September 2024 - September 2026

Discussion: Matt Bycer and Javier Chamorro representing PatentVest, Inc. were present via Zoom and addressed the Committee providing the Committee updates on ABS activities.

Motion: Approve the renewal application for PatentVest, Inc.

Motion Proposals: First: Andy Kvesic
Second: John Hay

Pass/Fail: Pass 10-0-1-0

3. Swyft Legal, LLC (License #70173)
Licensure Period September 2024- September 2025

Discussion: The Chair noted an error on page 3 of the application in the materials. Division staff noted the error was due to document conversion and the original application contains accurate information that does not prevent the Division from recommending approval. Bob Bearden and Sherry Metzger representing Swyft Legal, LLC were present via Zoom and addressed the Committee providing the Committee updates on ABS activities.

Motion: Approve the renewal application for Swyft Legal, LLC.

Motion Proposals: First: Martin Shultz
Second: John Hay

5) Licensee UpdatesLindsey Bailey

5-A: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding a Change in Compliance Lawyer for:

- 1. G Law Services, LLC- Adding Steven Jones as Compliance Lawyer, Designated Principal, and Authorized Person.

Discussion: Member Lynda Shely noted the Steven Jones is not present because he is representing a party in a trial. *(Informational)*

- 2. API Law of Arizona, P LLC- Philip Martin

Discussion: *(Informational)*

5-B: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding application for a change in Compliance Lawyer:

- 1. Motion Law, LLC

Discussion: Andy Haywood attended the meeting via Zoom, representing Motion Law, LLC, and addressed the Committee. Member Lynda Shely inquired about the reasons for the surrender. Haywood explained that it was not related to the program but was due to structural reasons. He mentioned that Motion Law also has a presence in D.C. and is expanding into different practices there. He indicated that it would be better to focus on that expansion rather than maintaining an ABS in Arizona at this time but expressed interest in returning to Arizona in the future. He also suggested that the renewal period might be more beneficial if done every two years.

Motion: Approve the voluntary surrender for Motion Law, LLC.

Motion Proposals: First: Martin Shultz
 Second: Lynda Shely

6) Administrative Items Division Staff
..... Marquita Brazil

6-A: Update on Alternative Business Structures Program and Legal Service Innovations Program:

Discussion: Division staff provided updates on the Alternative Business Structures and Legal Service Innovations program.

6-B: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Taskforce Updates:

Discussion: The task force met and circulated its draft report and recommendations, which are expected to be submitted this month. The report recommends rule changes that apply to all litigants,

not just ABSs. As of today, the final draft has not yet been circulated. Justice Bolick will present the findings at the AJC.

6-C: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding working groups to address regulatory tasks, including:

Discussion: The Committee reviewed and discussed the current status and composition of the individual workgroups.

Audits; Chair – Andy Kvesic

Data gathering; Chair – Judge Anni Hill Foster.

ACJA changes; Chair –Suzanne Porter.

Application changes; Chair –Lynda Shely.

Training for nonlawyers and other applicants; Chair – Andy Halaby

7) **Division Updates.....***Division Staff*

7-A: *Division updates:*

Discussion: The Committee members to provide input on whether to start the ABS committee meetings at 9 am or continue with the current 10am start time. Consensus to start at 9 am. Effective November 12, 2024. Division staff welcomed Lindsey Bailey as CLD extern from ASU.

8) **Call to the Public.....***Hon. Anni Hill-Foster (Chair)*

No comments were made.

Adjournment..... **Hon. Anni Hill Foster (Chair)**

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 am

Motion Proposals: First: Martin Shultz
Second: Lynda Shely

Pass/Fail: Pass 10-0-1-0