



## FIDUCIARY BOARD

Arizona State Courts Building  
1501 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Conference Room 330

November 9, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

### Final Regular Meeting Minutes

#### MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

##### Present:

Hon. Jennifer Perkins-Chair  
Vinay M. Singh left @ 12:37 pm

##### Telephonically Present:

Elaine Acosta Sweet-Vice-Chair  
Teresa Lancaster left @ 1:30 pm  
Diana M. Corry-left @ 12:30 pm  
Zora Manjencich  
Hon. Brian Hauser  
Deborah Primock arrived @ 10:55 am  
Jeanette S. Bloss

##### Absent:

Sharon Yates

#### OTHER ATTENDEES:

##### AOC Staff:

Aaron Nash  
Pasquale Fontana  
Wil Castro  
Téa Bravo  
Sarah Penttinen  
Janelle Bauserman  
Jared Trebesch  
Jared Arthur  
Derron Chandler  
Shanneyvie Halk  
William McIntyre  
Ryan Potter  
Arnita Oliver

##### Guests:

William Chalmers  
Christopher Leas  
James Knochel  
Becky Brimhall  
Heather Bull  
Phillip Visnansky  
Letty Segovia  
Jason Cobb  
Nicole Cundiff  
Jose Lopez  
Claudia Ramirez  
Susan Wulff  
Ed Laber  
Ann Lander  
Claire DiPardo  
Stephanie McCollum  
Nancy Thornton  
Larissa Wells  
Christine Tasopulos  
Kallie Knight  
David Redkey  
KNXV-TV  
Taylor Galas  
Jonathan Reich  
Jackie Frisosky  
Deborah Gilliland  
Shawnie Patterson  
Lynda Lowe  
Holly Lawder  
Natalie Wassinger  
Susana Chavez  
Jeanne Drabiak



**CALL TO ORDER**

**Called to Order By:** Hon. Jennifer Perkins, Chair

**Time:** 10:42 a.m.

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**1) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**1-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the regular session minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2023***

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Hon. Jennifer Perkins, Chair

**Discussion:** None

**Motion:** Consideration of and motion to approve the regular session minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2023.

**Motion Proposals:** First Jeanette S. Bloss  
Second Elaine Acosta Sweet

**Motion Results:** Pass

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**2) PENDING COMPLAINTS:**

**2-A: *Update Regarding pending complaints***

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Pasquale Fontana

**Discussion:** As of October 27, 2023, there are 63\* open complaints.

*\* Complaints are open until probable cause is determined. The total open complaints represent complaints under investigation. They do not include complaint numbers 20-0013, 20-0014, 21-0009, 22-0051, 22-0052, 21-0005, 21-0006, 21-0011, 21-0047, 21-0048, 22-0049, 22-0050, and 23-0033 presented at this Board meeting.*

**2-B: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint Nos. 20-0013, 20-0014, 22-0051, and 22-0052 involving license holders Jane Anne Geisler and Managed Protective Services, Inc.***

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Aaron Nash

**Discussion:** The Division recommends the Board find that Jane Anne Geisler (Geisler) and Managed Protective Services, Inc. (MPS) failed to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement signed February 16, 2023, which remains in effect; and that Geisler and MPS continued to appear in open probate cases in superior court after their licenses expired on May 31, 2022.

The Division further recommends the Board:

1. Issue a cease-and-desist order pursuant to ACJA §7-201(E)(6) and (H)(24)(a)(6)(g); and
2. Petition the superior court to enter an order for Geisler and MPS to immediately cease and desist conduct constituting engagement in the practice of the profession or occupation without the required certification under ACJA §7-201(E)(6).

**Motion:** Accept staff's recommendation.

**Motion Proposals:** First Vinay Singh  
Second Hon. Brian Hauser

**Motion Results:** Pass

**2-C: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint No. 23-0033.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Pasquale Fontana

**Discussion:** On initial screening of the complaint, Division staff determined the complaint is appropriate for Division Director dismissal, without prejudice. Under ACJA § 7-201(H)(2)(a)(2)(c), and (d), and (H)(2)(c), Division staff recommends the Division Director enter a finding that complainant failed to provide allegations to remedy an insufficient complaint for acts of misconduct or violation of the statutes, court rules, or applicable sections of the ACJA; and failed to provide sufficient information to permit an investigation.

Members discussed the complaint allegations and circumstances and want the division to continue seeking more information that would permit an investigation.

**Motion:** Direct the division to investigate the complainant and seek a response from the fiduciary.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser

**Motion Results:** Second Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Pass

**2-D: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint No. 21-0011 involving license holder Compass Fiduciary Group, LLC.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** William McIntyre

**Discussion:** Christine Tasopulos, attorney for the license holder, addressed the Board stating their support of the matter being unsubstantiated. Complainant James Knochel also addressed the Board. The Chair noted that the complainant provided additional materials to division staff and that those materials were not further distributed, given limited time before the public meeting.

The Division recommended the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding that probable cause does not exist as to the allegations.

It is further recommended the Board dismiss complaint number 21-0011 with prejudice.

**Motion:** Accept staff's recommendation to dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser  
Second Teresa Lancaster

**Motion Results:** Pass

**2-E: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint No. 22-0050 involving license holder Christopher Leas.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Janelle Bauserman

**Discussion:** It is recommended the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Christopher Leas has not committed the alleged acts of misconduct in Allegations 1, 2, and 3 as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report in complaint number 22-0050.

It is further recommended the Board dismiss complaint number 22-0050 with prejudice.

**Motion:** Accept staff's recommendation and dismiss complaint 22-0050 with prejudice.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser  
Second Elaine Acosta Sweet  
**Motion Results:** Pass

**2-F: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint Nos. 21-0047 and 21-0048 involving license holders Teresa Lancaster and Bogutz & Gordon, P.C.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** William McIntyre

**Motion:** Move to enter executive session for advice of counsel under ACJA §1-202(C)(5)(c).

**Motion Proposals:** First Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Second Hon. Brian Hauser  
Recused Teresa Lancaster  
**Motion Results:** Pass

**ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION: 11:24 a.m.**

**EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ENTERED PUBLIC SESSION: 12:26 p.m.**

**Discussion:** The complainant requested more time to review the Division's recommendation and the Board might not be able to maintain quorum for this agenda item and others if the matter proceeds at today's meeting.

**Motion:** Defer this agenda item to the next meeting.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Jennifer Perkins-Chair  
Second Hon. Brian Hauser  
**Motion Results:** Pass

Recused Teresa Lancaster

**2-G: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint No. 22-0049 involving license holder Jason Cobb.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Janelle Bauserman

**Discussion:** It is recommended the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Jason Cobb has committed the alleged acts of misconduct in Allegations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report in complaint number 22-0049.

It is further recommended the Board enter a finding ground for formal disciplinary action exists pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) § 7-201(H)(6) for act(s) of misconduct involving the specific code sections cited in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report

It is further recommended the Board revoke Jason Cobb’s Fiduciary License.

Christine Tasopulos, counsel, addressed the Board and stated Jason Cobb’s intent to resign as designated principal for the business.

**Motion:** Defer this agenda item for the Division to receive additional information and to pursue a consent agreement.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser  
Second Jeanette Bloss  
Diana Corry and Vinay Singh had to leave before the vote on this matter.

**Motion Results:** Pass.

**2-H:** *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Complaint No. 21-0005 and 21-0006 involving license holders Michael Bogle and East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc.*

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Pasquale Fontana

**Discussion:** It is recommended the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Michael Bogle and East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc., have not committed the alleged act(s) of misconduct as to Allegations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report in complaint numbers 21-0005 and 21-0006.

It is further recommended the Board dismiss, with prejudice, Allegations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in complaint numbers 21-0005 and 21-0006.

It is recommended the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Michael Bogle and East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc., have committed the alleged act(s) of misconduct as to Allegations 2 and 9, as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and

Recommendation Report in complaint numbers 21-0005 and 21-0006.

It is further recommended the Board enter a finding ground for formal disciplinary action exists pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) § 7-201(H)(6) for act(s) of misconduct involving the specific code sections cited in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report:

It is recommended the Board direct the Division to issue a Censure to East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc., and Michael Bogle.

The Board was addressed by the following:

- Christine Tasopulos, counsel
- Member of the public William Chalmers
- Complainant Larissa Wells
- A member was concerned about the repetitive issues with the license holders and considered their current probationary status an aggravating factor in this complaint.

***Motion:*** Dismiss Allegations # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 with prejudice.

***Motion Proposals:*** First Jeanette Bloss  
Second Teresa Lancaster  
Diana Corry and Vinay Singh had to leave before the vote on this matter

***Motion Results:*** Pass

***Motion:*** Accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Michael Bogle and East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc., have committed the alleged act(s) of misconduct as to Allegation 9, as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and Recommendation Report in complaint numbers 21-0005 and 21-0006.

It is further recommended the Board direct the Division to issue a Censure to East Valley Fiduciary Services, Inc., and Michael Bogle.

***Motion Proposals:*** First Jeanette Bloss  
Second Hon. Brian Hauser  
Diana Corry and Vinay Singh had to leave before the vote on this matter

***Motion Results:*** Pass

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**3) INITIAL LICENSURE AND ELIGIBILITY:**

**3-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the following applications for initial individual and/or business licensure:***

- 1. Susana Chavez**
- 2. Casey Ross**
- 3. Dianne McNamara**
- 4. Matthew Mansour**
- 5. Nancy Thornton**

***Individual Addressing the Board:*** Wil Castro

***Discussion:*** It is recommended the Board grant initial fiduciary licensure to Susana Chavez contingent upon completing the fiduciary professional training.

***Motion:*** Accept staff's recommendation.

***Motion Proposals:*** First Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Second Hon. Brian Hauser  
Diana Corry, Vinay Singh, and Teresa Lancaster had to leave before the vote on this matter.

***Motion Results:*** Pass

***Discussion:*** The Board approved Casey Ross's and Dianne McNamara's applications at the September 14, 2023, meeting. At the time of the Board meeting, the Division had not received Casey Ross's and Dianne McNamara's fingerprint results. Since then, the Division received Casey Ross's fingerprint results with no issues, and she was granted initial fiduciary licensure on October 26, 2023. The Division received Dianne McNamara's fingerprint results with no issues, and she was granted initial fiduciary licensure on October 11, 2023. Informational.

***Discussion:*** It is recommended the Board grant initial fiduciary licensure to Matthew Mansour contingent on fingerprint results with no deficiencies. A member noted the applicant disclosed concurrent employment and requested the Division seek additional information. The Board will defer Matthew Mansour's application.

***Discussion:*** The Division recommends that initial fiduciary licensure be granted to Nancy Thornton contingent on the Arizona Supreme Court issuing an Administrative Order waiving the experience/education requirements as it relates to Nancy Thorntons's Initial fiduciary licensure.

In the event the Arizona Supreme Court does not issue the Administrative Order, Nancy Thornton will be given the option to withdraw or proceed with her application on a future agenda with a recommendation for denial for failing to meet the minimum education and experience requirements.

**Motion:** Accept staff's recommendation.

**Motion Proposals:** First Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Second Zora Manjencich  
Diana Corry, Vinay Singh, and Teresa Lancaster had to leave before the vote on this matter.

**Motion Results:** Pass

**Note:**

Following agenda item 3-A at 1:40 p.m., the Board determined one additional item could be considered before the Board would lose quorum and have to end the meeting as a result. The Board considered agenda item 5-B out of order and deferred the remaining agenda items before adjourning.

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**4) RENEWAL LICENSURE AND APPLICATIONS:**

**4-A: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the following applications for renewal of individual and/or business entity licensure:**

1. Tara Lara
2. Certified Fiduciary Services, Inc.
3. Theresa Eells
4. Nicolle Escalante
5. Kelly Adamcik
6. Coy Vernon
7. Dawn Garcia
8. Garcia Fiduciary Services
9. Teresa D. Lancaster
10. Bogutz & Gordon, P.C.
11. Christopher Leas
12. Reliance Fiduciary, LLC.

**Individual Addressing the Board:**

**Discussion:** Deferred until next meeting

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**5) LICENSURE AND ELIGIBILITY:**

**5-A: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding voluntary surrender request received from Garcia Fiduciary, LLC.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:**

**Discussion:** Deferred until next meeting

**5-B: Review, Discussion, and possible action regarding request from examinee Jose Lopez to retake the fiduciary exam for a fourth time.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:** Téa Bravo

**Discussion:** By mail received on October 10, 2023, Jose Lopez requested the Board's permission to sit for the examination for a fourth time.

It is recommended the Board accept the request of Jose Lopez to retake the Fiduciary licensure examination for the fourth time.

**Motion:** Accept staff's recommendation for Jose Lopez to retake the fiduciary exam for the fourth time.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser  
Second Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Diana Corry, Vinay Singh, and Teresa Lancaster had to leave before the vote on this matter.

**Motion Results:** Pass

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**6) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**6-A: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding changes to ACJA 7-202 (K) regarding proposed fee changes.**

**Individual Addressing the Board:**

**Discussion:** Deferred until next meeting.

**6-B: Review, Discussion, and possible action related to the process of proposing modifications to the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA).**

**Individual Addressing the Board:**

**Discussion:** Deferred until next meeting

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## CALL TO THE PUBLIC

**Individuals Addressing the Board:** Call to the public was taken out of order to allow public comments during agenda items 2-D, 2-G, and 2-H. A second, general call to the public could not take place because the members' schedules did not allow for quorum to be maintained.

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## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Move to adjourn.

**Motion Proposals:** First Hon. Brian Hauser  
Second Elaine Acosta Sweet  
Diana Corry, Vinay Singh, and Teresa Lancaster had to leave before the vote on this matter.

**Motion Results:** Pass

**Time:** 1:42 p.m.

Initials: AO