

**COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Office of Court Administration  
Tom C. Clark Building  
205 W. 14th Street, Rm. 605  
Austin, Texas 78701  
**Friday, August 12, 2016**  
(1:00 p.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by the Hon. William Sowder, Presiding Officer, at 1:03 p.m. The members present by teleconference were Judge Sowder, Kim Tindall, Robin Cooksey, Deborah Hamon, Janice Eidd-Meadows, and Molly Pela. Whitney Lehmborg Riley appeared in person. The staff members present were Jeff Rinard, Michele Henricks, Lesley Ondrechen, Scott Gibson, and Tyees Holcombe.

Judge Sowder provided opening remarks and welcomed the Board members.

The Board members reviewed and approved the prior Board meeting minutes from the April 1, 2016 meeting with one correction.

Jeff Rinard summarized court reporter exam certification requirements for California and Louisiana.

Lesley Ondrechen provided the Board with an overview of the applications for endorsement for California applicants Christine Sperbeck, Emily Hatton, and Jessica Dunlap, and Louisiana applicant Angela Arrington. All applicants were present by teleconference.

The Board members reviewed and discussed the applications and materials in making their determinations.

During the January 8, 2016 meeting, the Board had voted that the skills portion of the Texas and California examinations were substantially equivalent. The Board voted to deny endorsement for the three California applicants based on lack of experience. The motion was amended to allow California applicants to use their California certifications in lieu of a Statement of Proficiency to qualify to take the Texas exam if they take the exam within one year from the August 12, 2016 meeting date of the Board.

The Board voted to deny endorsement for the Louisiana applicant based on the determination that the Louisiana exam is not substantially equivalent to the Texas exam.

Staff proposed possibly streamlining the applications for endorsement process whereby staff would conduct an administrative review of applications and grant or deny them based on guidelines established by the Board. Matters that did not fall within the guidelines would be referred back to the Board for a decision. Following discussion, it was determined that the Board would continue to review all applications for endorsement on a case by case basis.

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A future meeting date for the Board was not decided.

Jeff Rinard advised the Board that the Code of Professional Conduct Committee will meet on August 15, 2016. Committee members are Kim Tindall, Robin Cooksey, Whitney Lehmborg Riley, Janice Eidd-Meadows, and Deborah Hamon.

Monica Guzman, Mary Berry, and Susan Perry Miller gave public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

 12-16-16

Judge William C. Sowder  
Presiding Officer

Date