

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER STANDARDS COUNCIL

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 29, 2008

The regular meeting of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council was held on Friday, February 29, 2008, at the office of the Standards Council, 104 Marietta Street, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303

Council members present were Wilson DuBose (Chairman), Stephen Tillman (Vice Chairman – by telephone), (David Dunn (Secretary), Dr. Paul Kurtz, Judge Willie Lockett, Lee Morris, Donald Oliver, Wyc Orr, Bill Rumer, Judge Mark Scott, and Jerry Word. (by telephone).

CALL TO ORDER

Council Secretary David Dunn declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last Standards Council special call meeting held on January 18, 2008. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman C. Wilson DuBose assumed the chair

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Interim Capital Defender Jerry Word and Deputy Director Sarah Haskin discussed the decision to transition the Atlantic/Ogeechee conflict office into a capital defender satellite office. The decision was made based on the caseloads of the office not meeting the threshold needed to keep an office in place, and the desperate need to have a capital defender office in that area of Georgia based on the large number of death penalty cases in South Georgia. The office transitioned on March 4th. No action was necessary by the council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Crawford discussed the status of the 2008 Amended budget and told the council that the 2009 budget negotiations would begin the following week. He also summarized the current version of HB1245. The two issues opposed by the council (the change to the 72 hour rule and the shortened terms of the circuit public defenders) were changed back to the current language in the statute by the House Judiciary committee.

Director Crawford also reported that we are losing 32 parking spaces effective May 1st because the State Bar has leased the 4th and 6th floors. He also reported that there is now only one

purchasing card in the agency, all others have been cancelled. The last thing Director Crawford discussed was that the council give him some direction on where his authority begins and ends. After discussion, Chairman DuBose asked Crawford to make some recommendations to the council regarding what he thinks his authority should be. Judge Scott stated that he has confidence in the Director.

Judge Scott asked to go on the record that he “did not have anything to do with the Edwards vs. Lewis case”. The council then went into executive session at 1:50 p.m.

The regular session reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

OTHER REPORTS

Compliance, Conflict Case Management, Training, Appeals & ITT – Deputy Director Martin submitted his compliance report and stated that the conflict case numbers are still down.

GCD Report – was given earlier in the meeting with the transition of the Atlantic Conflict Office to a capital defender satellite office.

Financial Reports – submitted by Deputy Director Haskin in writing.

The meeting was adjourned.

The date for next regular meeting is Friday, April 18, 2008

These minutes are respectfully submitted this 29th day of February, 2008 and adopted this _____ day of April, 2008

David Dunn, Secretary