

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The April 2014 regular monthly meeting of the executive board of Military and Veterans Law Section was held at 12:00 P.M. at the Oregon State Bar Center in Tigard, Oregon. In attendance, either in person or via telephone were the following:

Chair Mark A. Ronning
Past Chair Chris Kent
Secretary Mark John Holady
Lori A.G. Hellis
Wesley A. Hill
Charles R. Williamson
BOG Contact Richard Spier
Matt Shields, bar liaison
Troy Woods, bar liaison
Kay Pulju, Communications & Public Services Director
Eric McClendon, OSB Lawyers Referral Service

MINUTES

The March 2014 regular meeting minutes, having been previously distributed through e-mail, were read and approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Mark Ronning attended the Oregon Women Veterans Conference in Eugene, Oregon in late March. 350 veterans attended. Mark met many vets and vendors. He staffed the Veterans History Project table. 25 veterans signed up. Volunteers are needed to interview these veterans.
2. Deployment Update: 1200 Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade will deploy. Likewise 50-100 Airmen from the Oregon Air National Guard will deploy. 30 members from the U.S. Army Reserve's 970th Transportation Corps Detachment deploys in mid-April. Mark's concern is that there will be smaller elements and individual deploying service-members who will fall through the cracks.

OLD BUSINESS

Kay Pulju gave an update regarding the Military Assistance Panel, its current role, and relationship with the Military Veterans Law Section. The MAP is 11 years old. It was meant to last 1-2 years and deal primarily with SCRA issues. Section member Charlie Williamson was the chair. The group dissolved after 2 years, but the list-serve that was created is still active. The MAP works with the Lawyers Referral Service

Domestic relations issues constitute the largest number of requests and have for some time. VA disability benefits and modest means requests are on the horizon for treatment next year. Because of MAP training and CLEs, the handling of SCRA issues is fairly well mapped out.

According to Kay, the MAP needs geographically diversity and practice diversity. Kay also wanted to know in what areas should the MAP recruit? The consensus from the committee was diversity both geographically diverse and in types of law practiced. For example, the Eugene-area will have a need, and the upcoming deployment will bring about new debtor-creditor issues.

Charlie Williamson recommended coordinating with the Family Law, Debtor-Creditor, Real Estate/Land-Use, Criminal Law sections and offer to speak at an upcoming section meeting/CLE. We already have contacts with these groups, e.g., Lori Hellis, Chris Kent

Admission of Spouse of Military Members

Chris Kent report that the resolution was not presented at the 2013 House of Delegates meeting in Wilsonville in November because of a lack of a quorum and the cessation of business. Chris is willing to go forward. Richard Spier suggested taking the matter to the Board of Bar Examiners as well. The HOD and the BBX both have direct access to the Oregon Supreme Court for this type of issue.

Free CLE review/accreditation

Mark Ronning reviewed the free, on-line CLE offerings. The Family Law and the Military has good content and is viable for accreditation. The other two seminars, Serving Those Who Have Served and Military Cultural Competence, are not focused on the law. Rather they explain the military to one not familiar with it.

NB: the CLE offering is free until September 30, 2014.

The website is <http://aoslegal.reliasacademy.com/category.aspx?zcid=457>

Waiver of Fees

Matt Shields suggested that the section create an insert for inclusion in the new admittees packet; that bar dues can be waived for new admittees is already listed however. An insert would serve to draw notice to the fact.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership

Lori Hellis noted that membership is up to 86 from 35 initial members. Only 14 more members are needed to meet the chair's goal.

CLE Committee Report

An August date is most likely, given the needs of potential clients. The topic list is essentially in place. The total time is 9.5 hours, so there will be some cuts. There was a discussion regarding splitting the CLE into two half-days. The wise owls in the room suggesting contacting Karen Lee at the Bar and getting her input on all areas.

Legislative Committee Report

Jess Barton and Matt Shields worked on amending SB 999 to allow service-members to petition court rather than relying solely upon the discretion of the district attorney is being suggested to Board of Governors by the Public Affairs desk of the OSB and section members Chris Kent and Mark Ronning.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be at the Oregon State Bar Center, Tigard, Oregon, on May 20, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark John Holady, Secretary