

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

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

Mark A. Ronning
Mark John Holady
Jesse Wm. Barton
Lori A.G. Hellis
Donald W. McCann
Charles R. Williamson
Wesley A. Hill
Richard G. Spier
Doug Sedwick
Michel Gray
Dani Deurmier
Matt Shields, bar liaison

Minutes: As corrected, the January minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Report: Chair Mark Ronning gave his report as set forth below:

Review of MVLS Activities and Opportunities

- Review 2014 Section Goals. Veterans courts are a broader area than was discussed In January. Mark Ronning sees the courts as more of an outreach to those involved in the judicial process with an eye toward equitable treatment toward veterans. He want the section to be a resource for Oregon attorneys and courts whether through CLEs, information on the website, website links partnerships, etc. Mark Ronning also sees the section as a trainer or coordinator for outreach/training partner toward 3rd parties, e.g., whether CLEs

- Working toward 1 percent of OSBar as members.

- Veterans History Project: The Oregon Court Reporters Association has volunteered resources to record interviews of veterans for deposit at the National Archives. Volunteers are needed to tell their stories as veterans and to interview the veterans for this project. Please contact Robin at 503-517-9983 for more information and to help in the worthy cause.

Immediately following the February meeting, Attorney Samuel Hernandez from Barran Liebman will interview Judge Paul DeMuniz; Robin will transcribe. Mark Ronning hopes to have four interviews per month, immediately following each meeting. He also hopes for outreach, e.g., someone conducting interviews at the Oregon Women's Vets conference in Eugene. The chair hopes to connect/collect the interviews with Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Military Museum, Oregon Historical Society. The program needs people to interview the

veterans. Mark Ronning hopes attorneys, using their best deposition manner, will help interview vets. However this is not the section's project; rather, look to the Oregon Court Reporter Association to take the lead and coordinate.

- Washington State Bar Association *Call to Duty*: Capt. Alex Straub is Washington contact. *Call to Duty* is their equivalent of the MAP. The WSBA section is similar to Military and Veterans Law Section. Mark Ronning intends to coordinate and cross-level information, especially on CLEs.
- 41st Brigade Deployment Update: From Capt. Doug Sedwick--elements from Oregon are deploying to Afghanistan for the security and training of Afghan forces. Two full battalions and part of a third are going, not a full brigade but about 1500 Soldiers. The troops head for U.S.-based training in April with deployment to theater in late spring/early summer (around June). The return date is not fixed.
- Because of the imminent 41st Brigade's deployment, the CLE timed for June/July because of needs of people and organization will be present at that time. Mark Ronning wants the training and materials freshly in hand at that point. As the lead time is six weeks and the OSB Bulletin for July/August is combined, the section needs to contact editor Paul Nickell mid to late spring for announcements for July/Aug publication,
- Vice Chair Nomination: Doug Sedwick has volunteered. Upon Mark Ronning's nomination, the executive committee unanimously elected Doug to be vice-chair. Welcome, Doug! Doug is a JAG Corps Captain serving with the Oregon National Guard.
Doug wants to volunteer for same reasons that joined Guard. Wants to help Soldiers. Had been looking forward to deployment, but staff was called off recently. This way he can still help even though not deploying.

Old Business

- Mark Ronning - Status Report on Section Outreach Efforts. There are CLE opportunities through ABA. Mark Ronning spoke with Jeff Conway at the Bar. The OSB is reviewing ABA CLEs to see whether OSB members can receive video credit for watching ABA LAMP CLEs.
- Matt Shields - Status Report on Legislative Proposals for 2015 Legislative Session: Forum scheduled April 17; if section wants to submit anything, need to have it in by April 1 to Public Affairs Office. Then BOG will meet at end of April and take action, if any. Mark Ronning intends to send message to section to query its input; he did speak with the Oregon Military Dept. to see whether it had issues.

milvets@forums.osb.org not same as executive committee list. If you want to subscribe or unsubscribe, head to OSB membership page and select preferences.

Status on system to waive fees for first-year practitioners. Still need to sign up with section. Waiver works, discounts don't, so section cannot offer a discount. Matt to confirm that section's approval is all that is needed for waiver.

Membership Committee Report

- Objective: Increase Section membership to 150 (1% of Bar): Mark Ronning spoke with a colleague from the WSBA Call to Duty; in Washington, the section has a law school liaison. Duty descriptions and expectations are coming. Will be presented in due course.
- Open Discussion
Mark Ronning: It's on our shoulders to reinitiate awareness and excitement. Although 10% of Oregon's population are veterans, not 1% as previously noted, but the chair still wants 1% of Oregon's attorneys in the section.
CLE Committee Report
- VA Disability Claims CLE After Action Report: AAR: Matt will follow up with Karen Lee to see what was expressed.
- Coordination of Training with Army One Source. Mark Ronning coordinating.
- CLE Committee. Volunteer to lead committee still needed. Dani Deurmier works for Mary Anne Royle Law Office. Dani recommends Mary Anne who has been doing veterans service-connected disability work for 20 years. Mark Ronning: Mary Anne would be a good presenter for a CLE. Dani: Mary Anne did a one-hour presentation. Would be good idea to have on website.

Legislative Committee Report

- Objective: Propose, develop and support legislation which benefits Veterans, Military and Dependents
 - * HR 2189 - VA Disability Claims Logjam: TABLED
 - * Discuss Concepts for 2015 Legislative Proposals.

Mark Ronning called on member Jess Barton regarding veterans courts. According to Jess, SB 999 which allowed district attorneys as to divert cases. Has not worked out. Limited number of cases actually diverted. District Attorneys are not applying law. Jess wants SB 999 expanded. Wants judge (or some third party besides DA) to have discretion because otherwise law is not effective. Veterans courts operate on a presumption of guilt; yet veterans may have viable defenses. But if a veterans wants to avail himself of the veterans court diversion, he must plead guilty.

No DA office has established policies to implement SB 999. A unanimous senate and nearly unanimous house expected changes and nothing has happened.

Charlie Williamson then moved to proceed with an updated bill; Mark Ronning seconded, and the executive committee resolved to request a bill to expand and clarify SB 999.
- Objective: Develop and maintain systems which deliver resources in support of Veterans and service-members
 - * Website Content: website is not updated nor helpful; needs links, newsletter,

resource directory; Mark Ronning suggested that the section come up with broad categories. Section members are to send Charlie Williamson their five favorite links and he will forward them to bar. We are to put out a request to the forum; send Charlie 5 favorite links.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 18, 2014 at 12:00 PM at the Oregon State Bar Center, Tigard, Oregon

Adjournment: 1:05 PM