

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 7, MEETING MINUTES

The January 2014 regular 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 chair Mark Ronning, past chair Chris Kent, treasurer Dan Skerritt, Amrit Sidhu, Jess Barton, Charlie Williamson, Jonas Hemenway, Dani Durmeyer, OSBar liaison Matt Shields, OSB lobbyist Amy Zubko, and secretary Mark Holady.

Minutes: The past secretary, Amy Lammers, is currently deployed. The minutes from the October 29, 2013, will be generated by Mark Holady

Chris Kent reported followed up on the establishment of a USO club at the Portland International Airport. Chris spoke with former Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz who indicates that a space is in the works. Go to <http://www.usonw.org/pdx.php> for more information.

Chris also indicated he would send an end-of-the-year wrap-up report to Sarah Hackbart to be incorporated into the section minutes.

Charlie Williamson updated the committee regarding the section website, <http://www.osbar.org/sections/military.html> Charlie opined that it should contain links to CLE, other web-sites, resources, and a calendar. The site is still being developed. Matt Shields indicated some bar assistance would be forthcoming.

New Business Mark Ronning polled the attendees for their objectives during the year. Some foci of the chair are

1. Information Services—establish a newsletter for example.
2. Military support—the 41st Brigade Combat Team, headquartered at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, is set to deploy in the summer of 2014. Mark desires to engage the Military Assistance Panel and to hold a CLE early in the deployment so that returning veterans will have adequate representation of their legal needs upon their return to civilian status post mobilization.
3. Membership—Mark desires to see 150 members active in the section, or 1% of the bar membership, approximating the percentage of the citizenry serving in the military.
4. Veterans Courts—the section should assist in establishing a template for the Oregon judicial departments circuits from what works well in other jurisdictions.

Chris Kent wants to focus on the OSB monitoring of criminal practice standards, expanding servicemember spouse admission rules. Charlie Williamson indicated that the Board of Bar Examiners was going to look at the matter. Jess Barton said

he would follow up with Paul Levy about revising the standards. The Public Defender Service Commission adopted the OSB standards, so if the Bar adopts them, the standards will be mandatory. The standards have been in play since the summer of 2012.

The committee then discussed the upcoming legislative session upon Amy Zubko's initiative. Matt noted that early submission is best. For next year's regular session, the section should submit proposals in memorandum form to the bar the April 17, 2014, Board of Governors meeting. Matt also indicated that either the section chair or the chair's designee needs to be a contact to monitor the process.

Mark Ronning suggested putting out a call to the entire section "here are our opportunities. What do you see?"

There was then a discussion about alternate sites for section meeting. After discussion, it was decided to keep the present format including the free call-in option.

Mark Ronning also indicated that he would be addressing committee member assignments off-line, e.g., monitoring the veterans court initiative.

Charlie Williamson then discussed the website. Chris Kent proposed a mission statement which was then unanimously adopted. The statement will be placed on the website. Charlie volunteered as chair of the web-site subcommittee

Touching upon membership, Chris Kent proposed that first-year admittees to the OSB can receive complimentary membership to the section, i.e., that dues would be waived. The proposal was moved, seconded, and passed with unanimity.

Regarding committee meetings, Charlie suggested meeting the 3rd Tuesday of every month at noon at the bar center. The matter was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report Dan Skerritt informed the committee that the Campaign for Equal Justice sought a contribution from the section, not realizing how small the section and its coffers were. Meanwhile, the section does have a budget and it will be distributed in due course.

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM