

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

The March 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
Secretary Mark John Holady
Jesse Wm. Barton
Lori A.G. Hellis
Donald W. McCann
Doug Sedwick
Amrit K. Sidhu
Charles R. Williamson
Matt Shields, bar liaison
Troy Woods, bar liaison
Anna Zanolli, bar staff

MINUTES

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

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Section Outreach and Volunteer Update: Mark recently met with Andy Milar, the Judge Advocate for the Oregon Department of the American Legion to network. According to Milar, the Legion is busy representing veterans in Eastern Oregon. There are no legal services available for veterans in eastern, central, and southern Oregon generally despite the presence of troops at Kingsley Field (in Klamath Falls) and good-sized armories in Bend, Milton-Free-Water, and Pendleton. We need to encourage local bar to represent veterans. For example, Lori Hellis said she would contact the OCDLA and post on its list-serve, the OSB family law list-serve. Lori rarely gets questions that require a JAG; usually the client is a vet with a regular state-law question.

Attorneys need not be veterans to help veterans. Get out the word!

Veterans History Project

There will be an article in the Bulletin regarding the Oregon Military History Project. Unfortunately, for March, there is no interview being conducted. The OSB will continue to reserve a room to conduct interviews however. Finally, remember the Women Veterans Conference, March 27-30, in Eugene, Oregon.

Army One Source Legal Assistance Credits.

Mark spoke with Danielle Edwards at OSB regarding Army One Source CLE on-line seminars. Edwards will work with Mark regarding credit, relying upon Mark's review of the videos. Mark will review videos and see whether they will provide value to attorneys and are therefore worthwhile for section to put on website. Until the link to the section website is made, attorneys can log on to www.aoslegal.cequick.com and review as well.

41st Brigade Deployment Update

Doug Sedwick, a captain in the Oregon Guard's 41st Brigade, reported that the plans to deploy continue. Brigade soldiers will go to training in May. Then return to HS for 1 week, then Ft Hood for pre mob. Deploy to Afghan late summer.

Proposed Mission Statement. The mission statement as distributed to the Executive Committee on February 21, 2014 was unanimously adopted.

The chair introduced Troy Wood, a Marine Corps veteran. Troy is the new OSBar Liaison for the section.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Report on Admission of Military Spouses Proposal
Tabled pending Chris Kent's return.

Status Report on Submitted Legislative Proposals for 2015 Session.

Matt Shields: Legislative proposals: Follow up on SB 999 from 2011 was section's intent. OSB still needs formal request from section. Deadline is 4 April 2014. Need enough of idea for proposed legislation, i.e., section needs to identify problem and suggest a solution. Shields anticipates push-back from district attorneys association. At this point, section member Michel Gray is actively engaged in the process.

Jesse Barton is also involved, working with Noah Horst and Gail Meyer, lobbyist with OCDLA. The goal is to amend SB 999 and give other parties, e.g., the judge, defense attorney, besides the DA discretion whether a charge is subject to diversion.

Regarding new proposals, the chair sent 2 emails to section members, including proposed legislation deadline alert. No one responded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Report

The chair informs the section that as no one person stepped up to lead the membership committee, we all have the responsibility to get people to join. Matt Shields reported that the system to waive fees for first-year practitioners is set to go.

CLE Committee Report

Mark Holady reported that he had been in contact with Kes Joerg of the OSB CLE Seminars Dept. The section needs to provide proposed dates, times, speaker topics, and agenda to the Bar, starting with a date. The section then discussed when to hold the seminar and the topics. Mark had discussed holding the seminar in July or August. The chair was concerned about low attendance and the need to meet service-members needs in July. The section consensus is to hold the seminar in July.

As far as the topics are concerned, although veterans disability should be a topic, the primary goals, according to the chair, will be meeting service-members' employment and re-integration post-deployment, e.g., USERRA, SCRA. Doug Sedwick offered that there should be some discussion of domestic violence and Lautenberg issues. Now we need speakers. Send your suggestions to Mark Holady

Attached to these minutes is the attendees' review of the November 2013 *Handling a VA Service Connected Disability Claim* seminar.

Legislative Committee Report

Mark Ronning, through Matt Shields reported on the following bills during the 2014 interim session:

HB 4021– did pass. Universities, state colleges, and community colleges can charge in-state tuition for veterans regardless veterans would otherwise qualify

HB 4023 – veterans preference in hiring at state level passed.

HB 4057 – State boards are to find ways to recognize military training; agencies must report back (accountability measure)

SB 1505 – did not pass–whether veterans disability benefits used in spousal support calculations for example

Information Committee Report

Charlie Williamson introduced us to Anna Zanolli from the OSB. For website content, Charlie recommends the following: mission statement, MAP link, ABA website. Mark Holady sent in two suggestions: Vets Rest <http://firstcause.org/about-us/vetrest/> ; the Oregon Military Support Network <http://omsn.info/>

Anna let the section know that the handout is an outline. The resource page would be good for links. Use handout form to jot down ideas. The site will have membership info, etc. For next month, Anna will flesh out the draft site and send it back.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee discussed whether to bring the Military Assistance Panel under the auspices of the Military and Veterans Law section. The matter will be presented to the board next month. Charlie Williamson also asked how do we post messages discussing need for legal assistance to veterans on other list serves. Cannot individuals just put something up? Chair Ronning said that we would discuss the matter in April.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting will be at the Oregon State Bar Center, Tigard, Oregon, on April 15, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark John Holady, Secretary