

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
ANNUAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
MINUTES

The Section's Annual Meeting was held on October 21, 2014, followed immediately by the regular monthly meeting of the executive board of Military and Veterans Law Section. The Annual Meeting started at 12:00 P.M. at the Oregon State Bar Center in Tigard, Oregon. The committee meeting followed immediately afterward. In attendance, either in person or via telephone were the following:

Chair Mark Ronning
Secretary Mark John Holady
Bryan Boender
Daniel Crowe
Eugene Ebersole
Mary Ellen Farr
Jonas Hemenway
Wesley Hill
David Kramer
Steven J Nemirow
Sean Riddell
Robert Schulhof
Amrit Sidhu
Brian Scott Wayson

Chris Griffin, guest
Sarah Hackbart, OSB Liaison
Troy Wood, OSB Liaison

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Mark Ronning, Chair, opened the meeting with a review of the Sections activities and growth since November 2013.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The section started the year with a well-attended CLE conducted on November 14, *Handling a VA Service Connected Disability Claim*. Membership has increased 45 percent, from 60 in January 2014 to 87 in October 2014, primarily through personal contact and outreach. Because of outreach to the law schools, a law student at Lewis & Clark, Dr. Chris Griffin, regularly attended the section meetings.

On the legislative front, the section had thee focus areas: reciprocal admission of spouse of military members stationed in Oregon (OSBar is taking matter under consideration between November and December); amending SB 999 to allow the defendant or the court sua sponte to implement SB 999's provisions (matter withdrawn this legislative term to build consensus and support and bring back next full term); and responding to the Defense Dept. request for input to

the Oregon State Bar regarding the administration of military justice (Section responded to Board of Governors with response within 4-week deadline.

The section also put up a website through the efforts of Charlie Williamson and Jonas Hemenway. The site's intended to be a clearinghouse for information for the Bar and the public.

The section also came alongside the Oregon Court Reporters Association which is the lead group in Oregon to establish oral veterans' histories in accord with the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>. Lawyers interview veterans every month immediately following the executive committee meeting at the Bar offices. Veterans tell their stories in their own words. Volunteer to interview a veteran and listen to a fascinating story! Contact Gretchen Magarro (gretchen@LNScourtreporting.com or (503) 299-6200) to coordinate.

Mark Ronning attended the Oregon Veterans Summit. Veterans service providers across the state had one complaint: the utter lack of legal services for veterans. The Chair feels it is incumbent on the section to let veterans know what legal services are available, whether through the website, from other groups, from the Military Assistance Panel, or from the Section.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dues for members are \$20 except for first year lawyers. Support to the section provided by the OSBar costs \$8 per member. The balance is dedicated to Section activities. Through August, the Section is below budget concerning expenses and has \$910 in its account.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Dan Crow said the section was contacted by various groups to see whether services could be provided to vets. He is standing up a new committee next year to address this issue. Bryan Boender has handled similar issues in Eugene and Lane County and offered his assistance and expertise.

BOARD & OFFICER ELECTIONS

After an explanation by the Chair regarding the nomination process, the following were elected to the executive committee: Bryan Boender, Daniel Crowe, Mary Ellen Farr, Alisha Firestone, Thomas Flaherty, Spencer Gwartney, Mark Holady, David Kramer, and Mark Ronning.

The following were elected as new members-at-large: Paul Conable, Danielle Deurmier, Jim Rice, Sean Riddell, and Robert Schulhof.

The following were nominated and accepted as advisory members: Hon. Beth Allen, Jacques DePlois, Chris Griffin, Lori Hellis, and Amrit Sidhu.

The following were elected as officers of the Section: President - Thomas Flaherty; Chair-Elect - David Kramer; Secretary - Mary Ellen Farr, and Treasurer - Brian Wayson.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark John Holady, Secretary