

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
Executive Committee
February 17, 2015 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by the Chair, Tom Flaherty, at the Oregon State Bar Center in Tigard, Oregon. Present were Tom Flaherty (chair), Mary Ellen Farr (secretary), Mark Ronning (past chair), Dave Kramer (committee member/chair elect), Kerry Sharp (BOG liaison), (Kay Pulju (bar liaison substitute for Troy Wood), Ariel Dreher (guest), Jack Platten (guest), and the following law student guests: Chris Putezenski, Luke Miller, Neil Hattunen, and Chris Griffin. Present by telephone were Brian Wayson (treasurer), and committee members Daniel Crowe, Alicia Firestone, Mark Holady, Wesley Hill, Jim Rice, Spencer Gwartney, and Bryan Boender.

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2015, were approved unanimously with a correction to the spelling of Mark Holady's name.

Committee Reports.

Legal Clinic. Dan Crowe reported on the progress of the Legal Clinic committee which was constituted at the previous meeting. The committee has made significant progress which is detailed in the attached draft document. The committee put its draft together through contact and meetings with representatives of the Oregon Veterans Administration, Oregon Military One Source, veteran clinics around the country, and other organizations. The committee also met with Professor Binford from Willamette University College of Law. The law school indicated it would provide space, computers, software, and similar items. The committee will need to find pro bono or "low bono" lawyers to staff the clinic and assist students, and will need to provide a director and paralegal. Metro Public Defenders indicated it would be willing to fund \$110,000 per year for the next two years to pay for the director. The Military and Veterans Law section will need to raise about \$55,000 per year for a paralegal.

Crowe said that he had identified sixty-six members of the bar who are currently receiving fee waivers who may be willing to donate funds for the legal clinic staff, along with Willamette alumni, and other members of the bar. Jim Rice suggested considering sources like the Meyer Memorial Trust. The issue arose whether the section can form a 501 c3 corporation to solicit funds for this purpose. Pulju stated that the section cannot form such a corporation on its own, but suggested there may be ways to raise funds through such organizations as the Oregon Law Foundation. These efforts have to be with the approval of the BOG. Crowe noted there are other 501 c3 organizations which serve veterans and military members. Platten suggested approaching Governor Ted Kulongoski who has interest in military issues.

Firestone indicated she would be stepping back from working with this committee.

Kramer said he would be willing to help.

CLE Committee. Holady gave the committee report. He has been working toward having local CLEs around the state to encourage participation of lawyers in military issues. Flaherty, Crowe, Ronning, and Kramer offered to assist in organizing this local meetings. Ronning suggested focusing on those areas of the state which have the largest returning veteran presence. Pulju noted many local bar associations have monthly meetings scheduled which might provide options for meetings.

Information. Farr reported that the website is working and should now be linked to the section web page. The minutes will be posted on the website along with whatever other information the committee wishes to see posted.

Membership. Dan Crowe gave the report. He proposed sending an e-mail to all members of the bar who have military waivers asking for donations. Pulju asked that the committee hold off soliciting funds until the committee gets permission from the BOG and the bar's general counsel. The section does not have the authority to enter into contracts or solicit funds on its own because the section is not a separate entity but rather a part of the bar so this item was tabled for now.

The chair asked if there is any new business. Kramer asked if the committee was interested in working toward teaching a class on military justice. Ronning noted that Griffin has been active with the committee and is a student at Lewis and Clark Law School which might be interested and that Willamette might also be receptive. Ronning offered to talk to Willamette. Rice suggested approaching teachers at out of state law schools which offer similar classes to ask for the curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.