

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION
Executive Committee
January 20, 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), Daniel Crowe (committee member), Leslie Nelson (guest), Troy Wood (bar liaison). Present by telephone were Brian Wayson (treasurer), and committee members Alicia Firestone, Jim Rice, and Bob Schulhof.

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2014, were approved unanimously with the following clarification. The minutes do not reflect the chairs of the section's committees. Those chairs are as follows: Mark Ronning (Legislative); Mark Holday (CLE); Alicia Firestone (Pro Bono); Jonas Hemenway (Information); Dan Crowe (Membership).

2015 Goals. The committee discussed the section's goals for 2015. Crowe recommended that the activities of the committee be geared to advance the legal interests of veterans and to advocate in a way that is commensurate with the contribution of military members and veterans to the state and nation. Wood noted that since Oregon lacks a military base, resources which would be available through a base are not available here. Wood said the goals of the section should be to increase access to legal services for military members and veterans. Crowe noted the section had supported reciprocal admission to the bar for lawyer spouses and changing SB 999 to make it more effective although the section ultimately decided not to submit that as a legislative item last year.

The committee also discussed outreach as a goal of the section, both to veterans and military members and to non-military members of the bar. There are a number of organizations to which the section could reach out. Crowe noted that there is a lot of good will in the bar to help military and veterans, but little ability for bar members to provide that help. Wood also noted that the section has been involved with the Veterans Recording Project.

Flaherty recommended the committee look into teaching a class on military justice at Lewis & Clark and Willamette Law Schools and aim for a CLE each year, providing education for the section members, the bar, and the public. Wood stated that Mark Holaday has been working on a CLE for this year. Farr asked that any law school class which is proposed include not only issues of military justice but also issues facing veterans after their military service ends, as appealing to a more diverse group of law school students.

Firestone recommended establishing a legal clinic at one of the law schools which would assist veterans while giving students experience in handling veteran-related legal matters and suggested focusing on veterans' claims. Firestone volunteered to head up a sub-committee to

compile information on establishing such a legal clinic. Flaherty and Crowe agreed to be on the sub-committee. Crowe moved and Farr seconded the establishment of that committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports. Crowe gave the report of the membership committee and asked each executive committee member to bring a guest to the next meeting. Crowe noted that even if the number of section members increases, the section will need greater involvement by members. Flaherty offered to be on the committee.

There were no CLE or Legislative committee reports.

Farr reported on the Information committee. Hemenway has agreed to chair the committee, and Farr will also serve on the committee. She would like to work this year on greater visibility of the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.