

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION  
Executive Committee  
March 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), Daniel Zene Crowe, Jack Platten (section member), Jonah J. Hemenway, Gordon Hall (section member), Troy Wood (bar liaison), Danielle Edwards (bar staff), Sarah Hackbart (bar staff), and Chris Putzenski (guest). Present by telephone were Brian Scott Wayson (treasurer), and committee members Dave Kremer, Ariel Dreher, Brian Boender, Jim Price and Mark Holady.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2015, were approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports.**

**Legal Clinic.** Dan Crowe reported on the progress of the Legal Clinic committee which has made significant progress. He has been working on locating sources to fund prescreening for the legal clinic users, and considering potential charges for screening. He said Willamette has expressed the concern that the section or the bar contribute something in order to assure commitment to the process.

Edwards was present at the meeting as a representative of the Oregon State Bar member services. She noted that the committee has made a lot of progress, but that the section does not have the authority to make financial commitments without BOG approval and that the establishment of a legal clinic is outside the scope of usual section activities. One other section, the Debtor Credit section, supports a clinic which has sessions in Portland and Eugene. Crowe said he would start working toward getting BOG approval. There was discussion of whether the section wanted or needed to commit to providing financial backing and whether law schools have better mechanisms for fund raising in any event. Flaherty agreed to work with Crowe and Kremer to get BOG approval.

Holady asked if there was any opportunity to get assistance from the bar to apply for grants. Edwards agreed to look into this question and get back to the section. She noted that the Oregon Law Foundation was a 501(c) (3) organization which can solicit funds. The section cannot be its own 503 (c) (3) organization. Edwards also noted that the entire section must vote on the proposal before it if presented to the BOG although no formal meeting is required.

**CLE Committee.** Holady gave the committee report. He is still working toward shorter sessions in Ashland/Medford, Klamath Falls, and Grants Pass. Wood asked Holady to involve him when the scheduling gets firmed up.

**Membership.** Flaherty introduced two new members of the section, Gordon Hall and Jack Platten.

Crowe suggested that he would send out an e-mail to military members who have waivers encouraging them to join the section, but not to donate. The section agreed with that strategy. Crowe will copy Hackbart on the e-mail.

**Law School Class.** Ronning and Putzenski reported on a survey which was conducted at Willamette Law School. There is sufficient interest among the student body to justify moving forward to organize a class at that law school. The issue arose whether the section would be a sponsor of the class or not. Edwards noted if the section wants to sponsor the class, the BOG will have to give approval. If members of the section are putting the class together as individuals, no approval is necessary.

Ronning stated that the section members interested are looking at a one semester class, every other year, with two hour weekly sessions. Crowe said it would be worth seeing if the class can dovetail into the clinic.

**Legislative.** Farr offered to help Kremer with legislative issues.

**New Business.** Wood pointed out that the section needs a member to attend the house of delegates meetings. Camille Green will help arrange that participation. Wood also told the committee that there will be the first annual military assistance program symposium in May in Atlanta. So far no one from the bar is intended to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.