

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SECTION

Executive Committee

October 20, 2015 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by the chair, Tom Flaherty, at the Lewis and Clark Law School, Portland, Oregon. Present were Chair Tom Flaherty, Dave Kramer (chair elect), Mary Ellen Farr (secretary), executive committee members Mark Ronning (past chair), Alisha Firestone, and Daniel Zene Crow, and Troy Wood (OSB). The committee was joined by Lewis and Clark law students Chris Griffin (section member), Matthew Bacon, Andrew Futerman, Bryce Bissinger, Dwight Mears, Chris Huettemeyer, Thomas Hedden, Macahan Corthell, Phil Ard and Gregory Jones, and faculty members Bernard Vail, Bill Chin, and Henry Drummonds. Law School Dean Jennifer Johnson joined for part of the meeting. Present by telephone were executive committee members Brian Boender and Wesley Hill, and section member Bryan Thompson.

Law School Classes and Legal Clinics. Flaherty noted that the purpose of convening the meeting at Lewis and Clark Law School was to discuss the section assisting members to begin a law school class and potentially a legal clinic/practicum at Lewis and Clark Law School, similar to the process which has been underway at Willamette Law School. Dean Johnson welcomed the committee and indicated that the law school has twenty-eight veterans in the student body and is actively recruiting law students from the ranks of veterans. The law school is very interested in having a class taught and potentially starting a legal practicum.

Crowe summarized the process that has been on-going at Willamette. He summarized the discussions which had been held prior to the meeting with Associate Dean Susan Mandiberg about establishing a practicum at Lewis and Clark. Crowe stated that the process toward the legal clinic has stalled somewhat at Willamette in order to resolve issues of the structure of the program. Ronning noted that he had spoken with representatives of Willamette during the prior week, and he believed that the process toward a legal clinic would continue forward in the near future. Ronning also noted that the law school class had been approved to be given in winter term 2016. Ronning summarized the contents of the law school class and stated that the same structure and materials could be made available for a class at Lewis and Clark.

Firestone, who will coordinate the legal clinic at Willamette, indicated that she had drafted the syllabus to go along with the legal clinic and that the clinic was ready to go as soon as final approval was received. When asked what issues the clinic was likely to address Crowe stated common issues included housing, collections, expungement, sex offender relief, driver's license problems and landlord tenant issues. Some federal funding requires focus on housing issues. Crowe also suggested that a practicum could potentially be organized in the future which would be available to law students regardless of their law school affiliation. He stated the goal should be to provide legal services to all veterans who are without funds.

Dean Johnson stated the committee should work with Associate Dean Mandiberg and the faculty curriculum committee toward presenting a class and organizing a practicum. She said the law school will be moved by what the students want in the way of class work, and there is interest in a class in military law.

Flaherty asked the students what they would like to see. Several students indicated that they felt presenting a class on military law was the first step and could be appealing to non-veteran law students as well as veterans. Flaherty also encouraged the law students to join the section. The faculty members present indicated an interest in being involved with the section, including assisting with teaching the CLE. Ronning noted that member Sean Riddell had made a presentation to judges on veterans' issues and suggested that more such presentations would be valuable. The Department of Justice has developed materials on veterans' rights which could be made more available to the bar membership in general. The committee discussed several ways in which information on veterans' rights could be disseminated, including CLEs, a written CLE, or a handbook for judges and for the bar in general.

Minutes. The minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

2016 Committee Leadership. Flaherty indicated that the nominating committee had put together a slate of officers and new committee members. The slate is as follows:

Officers:

Chair:	David L. Kramer
Chair Elect:	Daniel Zene Crowe
Immediate Past Chair:	Thomas J. Flaherty
Secretary:	Mary Ellen Page Farr
Treasurer:	Mark John Holady

Members-at-Large – Term Ending 12/31/17

Jonas J. Hemenway
Wesley A. Hill
Mark Ronning
Bryan Scott Wayson
Paul W. Conable
Jack R. Platten
Paul J. Sundermier

Members-at-Large – Term Ending 12/31/16

Alisha L. Firestone
James Gordon Rice
Sean J. Riddell
Robert P. Schulhof

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