

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 14 2003
CLARION RESORT FONTAINEBLEU HOTEL
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND
MEETING - 8:40 A.M.**

At approximately 8:40 A.M. President James P. Nolan called the 108th Annual Business Meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association to order. The following items of business and/or announcements took place at the meeting:

1. The Secretary read the names of the members of the Maryland State Bar Association who passed away during the last year. (List attached as Exhibit 1). The entire body observed a moment of silence in honor of these deceased lawyers.

2. President Nolan called for reports of the officers and the Board of Governors.

A. Cornelius D. Helfrich gave the Secretary's Report. The Secretary has kept the Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Association and the Minutes of the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee. He has reported the actions taken by the Executive Committee to the Board of Governors and has reviewed the Agenda for the Business Meetings of the Executive Committee, the Board and the Association. He has performed other duties as outlined in the By-Laws of the Association and has frequently conferred with the President, the other officers, and the Executive Director in the furtherance of the work of the Association. He requested at this meeting that the assembled body give unanimous consent that the Minutes of the Business Meeting be corrected and approved by the Board of Governors. There being no objection, the Minutes will be so approved.

Mr. Helfrich, on his behalf and on behalf of all of the Association thanked President Nolan for his hard work and dedication for and to the MSBA. President Nolan made communications one of the cornerstones of his administration and he will be remembered as a great Communicator. He talked with everyone and facilitated everyone talking to each other. Mr. Helfrich extended a special thanks to President Nolan's wife, Nancy, for sharing President Nolan with us for the last several years.

B. J. Michael Conroy, Jr. gave the Treasurer's Report. As represented in the Maryland State Bar Association's Annual Report for the period 2002-2003, the financial highlights are as follows: For fiscal year 2002, there is reflected a total revenue of \$3,619,375.00, which included dues receipts of \$2,281,926.00; total expenditures were \$3,455,107.00; and an excess of revenues over expenses of \$164,268.00. The MSBA has once again, achieved its budgeted dues projections.

Based on the aforementioned reports, it appears that the financial status of the MSBA remains excellent. Our Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, is anticipated for delivery to the Board of Governors in September.

He also expressed his thanks and congratulations to President James Nolan; President-Elect, Harry S. Johnson; and Charles Keenan, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee.

C. Paul Carlin gave the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Carlin gave his Annual State of the MSBA Address.

He informed the attendees that there were 759 member attorney registrants at this year's Annual Meeting which is one of the highest registrations the MSBA has had in the last decade. He noted that many of the member registrants were couples.

He recognized Past President, Richard Sothoron, and Edward Gilliss, Esquire, Co-Chairs of the Program Committee and Wanda Claiborne, the MSBA Director of Meetings, who planned this meeting, as well as the Mid-Year meeting in Playa Del Carman, Mexico, last February. He noted that careful planning and excellent CLE programs made both meetings a tremendous success.

He reminded the attendees that a list of the members of the Board of Governors had been distributed to the attendees. He noted that there was one remaining vacancy which he noted will be filled by the new Board of Governors at its first meeting immediately after the close of the Business Meeting.

He remarked that the MSBA membership numbers continued to grow steadily. He noted that our membership numbers are approximately 20,800 members representing approximately 70% of all Maryland lawyers. He believes that our growth is directly related to the effectiveness of our volunteer leaders and the MSBA staff which has continued to provide tangible and intangible benefits which give value to membership in the MSBA.

Operationally and financially, the MSBA remains strong and quite stable, with consistent membership growth. He noted that our dues have only increased twice since 1980; the most recent increase having been thirteen years ago.

Mr. Carlin noted that the MSBA has made significant strides in the technology area. He noted that much of the MSBA's technology hardware has been updated, as well as the software needed to keep track of the MSBA's many activities. He informed the members that the MSBA is moving ahead on marketing and branding of the MSBA. He further noted that the MSBA has collected the e-mail addresses of approximately 60% of all of its members and had begun to announce upcoming MSBA and MICPEL events to those members by e-mail.

Mr. Carlin recognized Buz Winchester and Janet Stidman Eveleth, for 15 years of excellent service to the MSBA.

He thanked the outgoing President, James P. Nolan, for all of his effort and extraordinary time commitment for the good of the members of the Association. He noted that he had been a good leader upholding his promise of inclusiveness and good communication. He noted that incoming President, Harry S. Johnson, would shortly be inaugurated and that this would be a historic milestone for the MSBA. He noted that he and the MSBA staff were ready to launch into another great year filled with new, and probably as yet unknown, challenges.

D. Cornelius David Helfrich gave the Secretary's Report of the Board of Governors. The 2002-2003 Board of Governors has:

- Opposed contested elections of circuit court judges and endorsed a refined retention election process.
- Passed Resolutions supporting Sitting Judges.
- Supported federal corrective legislation seeking to exempt lawyers from a Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act provision regarding privacy.
- Received the President's Report on the creation of three new MSBA committees: Rules of Practice; Entertainment and Sports Law; and Consumer Bankruptcy.
- Approved final 2003 State Legislative Program.
- Approved recommendations to the new Governor regarding

judicial selection procedure.

- Received reports from the Planning Committee, the Anti-Discrimination Matters Committee and Ethics 2000 Committee on the Proposal of new rules of Professional Conduct.
- Approved two new membership benefits to facilitate payment of legal fees by credit cards and a magazine subscription service.
- Supported the filing of an Amicus Brief in the Civil Gideon Case to recognize the value of legal representation.
- Approved expenditures to upgrade the computer network at MSBA headquarters.
- Conferred Honorary Membership upon the following members:

Robert R. Bair
Hon. Walter E. Black, Jr.
William W. Cahill, Jr.
Thomas E. Cinnamond
Hon. Dulany Foster
Vernon Glenn Frame
Donald L. Fratino
Hyson Sonny Freiman
D. Sylvan Friedman
Thomas L. Hennessey
Eugene Hettleman
Hon. Eugene M. Lerner
Stephen A. Markey, Jr.
Samuel J. Miller, Jr.
Herman E. Perdue
Don F. Ryder, Jr.
William R. Sackville
Jerome R. Sereboff
Morton Shapiro
Julian B. Stevens, Jr.
Robert M. Thomas
Daniel R. Thompson
James R. Trimm
Hon. Robert J. Woods

Mr. Helfrich identified further highlights which were contained in the Annual Report distributed to the members which

Mr. Helfrich commended the reading of the Annual Report to those attending because it is a great synopsis of what the MSBA is all about.

4. The Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, gave his State of the Judiciary Address. Judge Bell congratulated President James P. Nolan and the MSBA on what he viewed as a very productive and successful year. Judge Bell congratulated President Elect, Harry S. Johnson, on his soon-to-be status as President of the MSBA. He noted that Mr. Johnson was the first African American President of the MSBA. He commented that Mr. Johnson is a fine choice to symbolize the culmination of a long and difficult history of African Americans at the Bar. He reminded the MSBA that it took a law suit to get African Americans admitted to the University of Maryland School of Law and that Monumental Bar Association was a direct outgrowth of the Majority Bar's practice of not admitting persons of color to its membership. He further noted the significance of the attendance at the meeting of Dennis Archer, Esquire, President Elect of the ABA, who will be the first African American President of the ABA. Judge Bell made it clear that such tangible recognition of diversity can only bring strength to the organized Bar.

Chief Judge Bell noted that the Court of Appeals strongly supports the concept of equal access to justice. He noted that the Pro Bono Reports have been filed and those reports are being analyzed. He discussed the Task Force on Professionalism headed by Judge Lynne Battaglia, has met in almost all of the local jurisdictions to try to ferret out how lawyers feel about the concept of "Professionalism." He further noted that he has appointed a Task Force to investigate the presence or absence of racial and ethnic bias in the court system in an effort to ensure that there is none with the goal of increasing the public's confidence in the judiciary. Judge Bell noted that the Business and Technology courts are up and running in the delineated jurisdictions in the state. He further remarked that he and the Court of Appeals are well aware of the problems caused by drug abuse and strongly supports the concept of drug courts to help rehabilitate drug users.

5. President Nolan presented the report of the Board of Governors acting as a nominating committee. He noted that the nominees were: President-Elect, Cornelius D. Helfrich; for Secretary, J. Michael Conroy, Jr.; and for Treasurer, Edward J.

Gilliss. The President noted that no other nominations by petition were received. He noted that the question was on the election of these individuals to the offices named above. A vote of the membership was taken and these officers were unanimously elected to these positions. Whereupon, the Chair called upon the escorts to accompany Mr. Helfrich, Mr. Conroy and Mr. Gilliss to the podium.

Escorting our President-Elect, Cornelius D. Helfrich, were Carol Helfrich, Wallace Kleid, Esquire, and Harry S. Johnson, Esquire, and the Honorable Angela M. Eaves; escorting our Secretary, J. Michael Conroy, Jr., Esquire, were: Claudia Conroy, Esquire, Alison Asti, Esquire, Dena C. Feeney, Esquire and John P. Kudel, Esquire; escorting our Treasurer were: Tracey E. Skinner, Esquire, Keith R. Truffer, Esquire, Ronald M. Cherry, Esquire and Louise Michaux Gonzales, Esquire.

6. New Business. No new business was discussed.

7. Report of the Bar Association's Insurance Trust. Aaron Kadish, Chairman of the Bar Association's Insurance Trust, was recognized. Mr. Kadish pointed out to the membership some of the outstanding contributions and financial support provided by the Trust to the Association and other groups, including its assistance to the Maryland Bar Foundation and its sponsorship of the Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Meeting. He advised the membership that the Trust was in fine financial condition and that Trust monies help the Association and its members. He encouraged all of the members to support the Trust in its efforts.

8. Awards and Special Presentations.

A. The President's Best Section Project Awards: President Nolan noted that the MSBA is a particularly active State Bar. Much of that activity can be attributed to our very busy Sections. In order to highlight that activity, the MSBA has created the Presidential Best Section Projects, one for service to public and a second for service to the members. This year, our Board of Governors has awarded the Presidential Best Section Project for the Members to our Elder Law Section for its *Assisted Living Handbook*. Nomiki B. Weitzel, Esquire, Section Chair, was presented the Award on behalf of the Section. The Presidential Best Section Project for the Service to Public went to the Administrative Law Section for outstanding Law Student Mentoring Project. Laura C. McWeeney, Esquire, Section Chair, was presented with the Award on behalf of the Section.

B. The annual Anselm Sodaro Award for Judicial Civility was presented to Somerset County Circuit Court Judge, Daniel M. Long.

C. The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) Awards were presented. The Chair recognized Sharon E. Goldsmith, Executive Director of PBRC. The following awards were presented by Ms. Goldsmith:

- (1) Individuals: Charles Balint, Esquire, Kathleen A. Ellis, Esquire and Michael C. Hickey, Esquire.
- (2) Lee A. Caplan Award: Stephen J. Nolan, Esquire.
- (3) Alex Fee Memorial Award: Stephanie Ketchum, Esquire.
- (3) Pro Bono Programs Award: Latino Legal Access Project and The Law Foundation of Prince George's County, Inc.
- (5) Law Firm Award: Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP.

D. Brent Bury, Executive Director of MICPEL thanked all of the many MICPEL volunteers who are listed on a sheet distributed to this meeting's attendees.

E. The Chair recognized Winnie Borden, Esquire, Executive Director of the MVLS, who presented the Partnership Awards. The Partnership Awards are given to organizations and individuals that have uniquely contributed to the mission of MVLS. The Award recognizes them for their special efforts that have helped specific clients, improved the system of recruiting and matching volunteers, or for their general support of the MVLS organization. The Awards were presented to the following three Bar Associations and their volunteer coordinators for their special efforts in recruiting and matching volunteers: Scott Robertson and the Wicomico County Bar Association, Cathi Coates, for her second year serving as the coordinator for the Worcester County Bar Association, Phil Hudson, President of the Worcester County Bar Association accepted the award on behalf of the Association, Mary Sue Greisman, who has been the Charles County Bar Association's liaison to MVLS for the past two years, Danny Seidman, President of the Charles County Bar Association

accepted the award.

F. The Solo and Small Firms Annual David Hjortsberg Award was presented by Mary C. Reese of the Howard County Bar Association to Kathleen Chapman, Esquire. This Award honors the late Mr. Hjortsberg who was praised as a gentleman who treated all with civility and respect.

G. The Leadership Academy fellows present were recognized and thanked by the Leadership Co-Chairs, the Honorable Marielsa Bernard and The Honorable Toni Clark for their enthusiasm and dedication. Judge Clark noted that the ABA has taken a great deal of interest in how the MSBA program works because they can see that it is quite successful.

H. The Chair called upon President Elect, Harry S. Johnson, to introduce the ABA President Elect, Dennis Archer, Esquire. Mr. Archer noted that he, President Elect, Harry S. Johnson and Karol Corbin Walker, President of the New Jersey State Bar Association who was present at this meeting had a special relationship: They were the first African Americans elected to lead their respective Associations. He noted that those elections were a clear sign of recognition of the abilities of minority lawyers by the majority Bar. In a thoughtful, carefully modulated delivery, Mr. Archer traced some of the history of minority lawyers in the United States and the difficulties that they faced in being admitted to law schools and, ultimately, in the practice of law. He noted that much progress had been made and made the point forcefully that much more progress needs to be made if we are to reap the benefits of diversity.

At the conclusion of Mr. Archer's address, President Nolan thanked Mr. Archer for taking the time from his schedule to address our Association and delivering such a thought-provoking message.

I. President-Elect, Harry Johnson and Executive Director, Paul Carlin, assisted in presenting James P. Nolan with several gifts from the Board of Governors in appreciation for his outstanding service of the MSBA from June, 2002 through the Annual Meeting in June, 2003. They presented Mr. Nolan with an engraved pewter bowl. The Association presented him with a Print entitled "Café Bienvenue" by Annapolis artist Nancy Hammond. He was also given a special gift of a signed photo with a personalized inscription from Bob "Big Cat" Lanier, an

NBA Hall of Famer who attended St. Bonaventure with Jim. Mr. Nolan received a standing ovation from the membership.

At various appropriate places in his final comments as President, President Nolan commended the Directors of the MSBA staff and their associates, as well as the Executive Director, Paul Carlin, for their untiring and quite effective efforts on behalf of the MSBA members.

9. After the podium was cleared, President Johnson addressed the assembled members of the Association and distinguished guests. He noted that he was following the example of his role models, such as Thurgood Marshall, Charles Dorsey and Chief Judge Robert Bell. He introduced his family and noted that when he was born, a lawyer of his race could not be a member of the MSBA. He noted that, over the years, and through the efforts of many, society has come a long way. He also noted that there was still much work to do and that to begin to accomplish that work, he planned to focus on history, leadership and outreach in the coming year. President Johnson noted that he would pay tribute to his predecessors as President through a special oral history videotaped project to memorialize the collective wisdom of the Presidents as a living history of leadership and a living history of the MSBA.

He noted that he would rejuvenate the Committee on Minorities in the legal profession to review progress since the first minorities' conference in 1987. In part, this is a direct function of his stated intention to focus on MSBA members and local and specialty bar associations. He reported that there would be two Bar Presidents Conference; one in October, 2003 and one in March, 2004 to ensure better communications with our members and the local and specialty bar groups. He encouraged lawyers to seek elected office because he believes that lawyers can make a significant difference in the process of law making. He noted that his personal credo has always been to try to leave each place on your journey a little better than when you arrived. In a typically humble comment, he closed with the thought that this is not his Bar year but rather our, the MSBA's, Bar year and suggested that working together, he and the MSBA can maintain the high standard that goes with the name MSBA.

Following the address of the President, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cornelius D. Helfrich
Secretary