

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY
1000 HILLTOP CIRCLE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21250
THE COMMONS, THIRD FLOOR**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm, by the President. Twenty eight members of the Board of Governors were present.

I. MINUTES

A. The minutes of the December 20, 2005 Board of Governor's meeting were read. Corrections and additions were made as follows:

1. Item II. A.2: add after "appreciation": *and their support*.
2. Item III.B: Strike "regarding through Session" and replace with: *of major concern at this time*. The minutes be approved as corrected.

II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. Report on various events and clippings.
 - a. Correspondence re: Science Workshop for Judges
 - b. Washington Post article re lawyer fees- Congrats to our member Ben Civiletti on his notoriety.
 - c. Washington Post and Baltimore Sun articles re 4th Circuit and Padilla case- the battles over the issues in this case continue.
 - d. Legal Times article re D.C. "ambulance chasers"-The 21 day prohibition on attorney solicitation of clients being proposed in D.C. will be closely monitored by the MSBA.
 - e. City Paper article re lawsuit against Attorney Grievance
 - f. Wall Street Journal article on Pro Bono trial work-the article provides some amazing statistics for members to note regarding civil trials in Federal Court.
 - g. Daily Record article on upcoming Court of Appeals vacancies
 - h. Article re Missouri's effort to put lawyers in their legislature-interesting article regarding the unexpected outcome of the Missouri Bar's efforts to increase the number of lawyers in their legislature.
 - i. Article regarding U.S. District Court intervention in MD disbarment
2. Report on Pro Bono Reporting for 2004. The President reported that the 2004 Pro Bono report contains very encouraging information on the continued dedication of Maryland attorney's regarding pro bono services.
3. Appointment of Best Section Project Board of Governors Committee. The President has appointed Donna Van Scoy, Lauren Calia and Charles Wagner to serve on this committee.
4. The President informed the Board that following meetings were scheduled :
 - Section Chairs, March 2, 2006
 - Managing Partners, April 7, 2006
 - Past Presidents, April 10, 2006

5. Report on follow-up materials re medical disciplinary system. The President reported that although we continue to monitor this situation, there seems no need for the MSBA to become involved at this time.

6. Correspondence re proposed meeting concerning tort system. The President reported that he believes that the MSBA's message regarding tort system issues has been receiving more attention than we may have thought. He stated that the heads of Med Chi and the Maryland Hospitals Association are very engaged in the legislative process and are supportive of the type of meeting which we previously proposed.

7. Announcement of appointment of new Paralegal Committee. The President announced the formation of a new Paralegal Committee and that Alan Garten had agreed to serve as its first Chair.

8. The President announced that Ward Coe had been nominated for the ABA Pro Bono Award and the Board agreed to support the nomination.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director reported the following:

1. Membership:

a. Resignations: 58, a slightly higher rate than in the last period due to email responses to renewal inquiries; 4 dropped for disciplinary reasons. Total: 62

b. New Members: New Admittees: 955, New members: 106, Reinstated: 31
Total Additions: 1092

Membership Count: 22,450

The Executive Director reported that *[Drum roll please]* for the first time in MSBA history we have over 22,000 members! Congratulations! The Executive Director added however that we should savor this moment, as the "drop" for nonpayment of dues occurs at the end of February.

Honorary Memberships were conveyed by acclamation to Roger K. Garfink and Donald Krach.

2. Announcement of merger of MBNA and Bank of America.

The Executive Director reported that the current program that the MSBA has with MBNA will not be changing as a result of the merger of MBNA with Bank of America. The product will be "rebranded". This is good news for the MSBA as we receive significant revenue from the program.

3. Report on new membership benefit with Office Depot.

The Executive Director reported that we are launching a new office supply discount program with Office Depot which has very attractive discounts of members. We urge all MSBA members to take advantage of the program.

4. Report on scholarships to ABA Midyear Meeting.

The Executive Director reported that several scholarships to the ABA Mid Year Meeting Bar President's Conference were awarded to the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys, The Monumental Bar Association and the Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland. All of the recipient associations appreciate the opportunity available through the scholarship program.

5. Reports on various matters.

a. New MSBA welcoming letter. The Executive Director reported that every new member gets a welcoming letter with a real smudgeable signature. The personal touch seems to make a great deal of difference.

b. The Teen DUI project of the Administrative Law Section has received 2 grants totaling \$16,000. The film will be shot in the next 2 weeks by MPT and will be distributed by Prom Time.

c. Teachers attending the CLREP teacher training with the Maryland Justice Institute sent a complimentary letter regarding the training.

d. The Executive Director mentioned an ABA Bar Leader article about his participation on a program about diversity at the ABA Annual Meeting.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

No Executive Committee report.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

1. Review of Financial Statement as of December 31, 2005.

The Treasurer (sporting a Pittsburgh Steelers Jersey-“Hsssss”....) reported that as of December 31, 2005 our financial statements show:

Total income: YTD: \$3,065,827.30

Total Expense: YTD: \$1,524,322.14

Budgeted but not expended: \$1,518,943.16

E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President-elect reported noted with pride the celebrity of Ben Civiletti, a fellow Rodger's Forge resident of Baltimore County.

III. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. MSBA Laws Committee. Michael J. Baxter, Chair and Richard A. Montgomery, III, Director of Legislative Relations, reported that to date over 200 bills had been filed and that before the Session is over that over 2,000 bills will probably be filed.

B. A copy of the MSBA's correspondence concerning its position on the myriad bills regarding Maryland sex offenders was distributed. There was discussion concerning the necessity that the MSBA's message regarding its position on legislation concerning Sex Offenses and offender sentencing be clearly delivered to the Legislature. The Chair assured the Board that the Committee was taking great care to clarify these matters.

C. The recommendations of the Laws Committee were reviewed by the Board. After discussion on several of the bills, including HB 84 concerning En Banc appeals, SB 92, regarding Jury Staff, and SB 150, regarding requiring the establishment of Gambling treatment diversion by the Courts, the report of the Laws Committee and the positions taken were, after motion and second, approved, with one vote in opposition.

IV. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES- No reports.

V. REPORTS OF SECTIONS

A. Report on Young Lawyers Section.

Ruth Ann Bennett, Chair of the Young Lawyer's Section reported that the Section's Open Meeting featuring the Deputy Inspector General speaking about the Rebuilding of Iraq is scheduled for March, 2006.

Ruth Ann also informed the Board of the death of one of the YLS's members, Linda Springrose. A moment of silence was kept in her honor. The President will extend the sympathy of the Board to her family and firm.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The President announced that there will be an Open Society Forum on Criminal Justice, Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 4:30 p.m., University of Maryland Law School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Kelly Howard
Assistant Secretary