

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNOR COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009
SENATE CHAMBERS STATEHOUSE
STATE HOUSE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
5:30 P.M.**

President Thomas C. Cardaro called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. MINUTES

There was approval of the Board of Governors' Minutes for the meeting on November 17, 2009.

II REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. The President drew attention to various correspondence that he asked the members to read on their own.

2. A presentation was made by Ted H. Staples, II on behalf of the Program Committee. Mr. Staples stated that there had been a decline recently in attendance at the Annual Meeting aside from those when there was a Joint Bench Bar meeting. They are attempting therefore to come up with some innovative ideas trying to balance the fun events, which are limited by time and scope, with substantive issues. He indicated that one of the thoughts was to try to obtain a major speaker such as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the plenary session in 2012. This was an information only presentation.

3. President Cardaro related that the D.C. Bar IOLTA rules have been changed so that Maryland lawyers who also do some D.C. work will not have to have separate IOLTA accounts for their D.C. clients as long as they have an IOLTA account in the state of Maryland where their primary office is located and it is compliant with Maryland IOLTA rules.

4. Mark Dopkin of the Land Records Improvement Fund made a presentation to the Board of Governors about the proposed removal of \$25,000,000 of the total \$36,000,0000 balance that exists for the land records improvement fund. Mr. Dopkin indicated that by 2010 there would most likely be a \$21,000,000 shortfall for the necessary expenses for the purpose of the fund, thus indicating the consequences would be devastating should the \$25,000,000 be removed.

A resolution was presented and passed by the Board of Governors, joining with the Oversight Committee and Chief Judge Bell, in opposing the removal of \$25,000,000 from the land records improvement fund.

5. Vernon Boozer, President of Legal Services Corporation, made a presentation to the Board of Governors requesting the Board support legislation for a surcharge on filing fees that is likely to be filed or pre-filed as a bill with the legislature. Once an actual bill is filed the Committee on Laws will take up the matter and report back to the Board of Governors.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. The Executive Director made reference to the fact that of the 42 Board of Governors members, all 42 were present—perfect attendance for the first time in known memory.

2. The Executive Director told the Board of Governors that we have at present 23,432 members and that every member of the staff will be calling 30-40 members who have not yet responded for renewal.

3. With regard to the Baltimore City ID cards, the sheriff's office no longer issues those pursuant to the orders of the Hon. Marcella A. Holland. The Executive Director indicated that he now has written concurrence from Judge Holland and the sheriff's office and also sought and received from the Board of Governors concurrence in the present arrangement whereby the executive director will sign the cards for Baltimore City members with the MSBA rather than the sheriff's department.

4. The Board of Governors approved moving the time for removal of those members who have not renewed from December 31st to the end of February in order to allow the MSBA staff to make the necessary phone calls to try to encourage dues payment.

5. The Board of Governors by motion approved new arrangements favorable to MSBA members for Kinko's services now offered through FedEx..

6. a. The Executive Director stated that there were 1100 new admittees who all received the professionalism course and made note of the fact that member Roger Perkins, a former president of the MSBA, taught at every professionalism course since its 1992 inception but expected to be retiring at the end of this year.

b. The Eleventh Annual Solo Day presented an excellent program but attendance was rather down and some consideration would have to be made with regard to the future of that conference.

c. The new University of Maryland Law School Dean, Phoebe A. Haddon, has requested an opportunity to address the Board some time in the near future.

d. The appointments to the Committee requested by Chief Judge Ben Clyburn at the last Board of Governors meeting have now been made.

e. The new Public Defender is Paul DeWolfe.

f. Mel Hirshman, who has headed the Attorney Grievance Commission for all except for its first six years, is retiring at age 78. That opening is presently being advertised.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Henry E. Dugan, Jr. indicated that the Executive Committee by conference call discussed those issues that were being considered by the Board of Governors that evening.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer John P. Kudel reported that the organization is doing well, only 3.6% behind its usual status at this time, basically \$102,000 down, which he felt confident would be made up in the near future. There is \$1,817,000 which was budgeted but not yet expended.

E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT - NONE

III. REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Report of the Laws Committee

Paul H. Ethridge, Chair, made a brief presentation indicating that since there were not as many lawyers in the legislature as in the past, an effort would be made to get as much information and have as much contact as possible with the legislative members in order to be as helpful as possible. Secondly he wanted to reach out to the chairs of the sections and committees to be a constant resource to the Laws Committee in their capacity of making decisions with regard to proposed legislation.

Richard A Montgomery, Director of Governmental Relations then asked that five non-substantive changes to the legislative program be approved by the Board of Governors and they were by motion.

IV. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES - NONE

V. REPORTS OF SECTIONS -NONE

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & GENERAL ORDERS - NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. These matters were taken up during President Thomas C. Cardaro's presentation.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The Board of Governors went into executive session during which nomination of MSBA officers took place. Secretary Henry E. Dugan, Jr. upon motion made by Michael W. Siri, was nominated by acclamation as President Elect.

2. Board of Governors member Michael J. Baxter was nominated by acclamation for Secretary upon motion made by Rebecca Strandberg and also appointed to be Assistant Secretary immediately.

3. John P. Kudel was nominated by acclamation as Treasurer upon motion by Bethamy N. Beam.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry E. Dugan, Jr.
Secretary

