

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009
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STEVENSVILLE, MARYLAND 21666**

President Kathleen Kelly Howard called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. There were 29 members, the Executive Director, various bar staff, and guests present.

I. MINUTES

The Minutes for the Board of Governors Meeting of December 19, 2008 were approved as submitted.

II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. President Howard announced that former MSBA president James P. Nolan has been selected as the president-elect of the National Conference of Bar Presidents.

2. President Howard referred the members to various correspondence which had been sent with the agenda, including a press release about the Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges selecting Howard County Circuit Court Judge Diane O. Leasure as chair and Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Marcella A. Holland as vice-chair; that BOG member Frank M. Kratovil, Jr., has been sworn in as congressman from the First Congressional District of Maryland; that Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge Dana Levitz is retiring and 22 attorneys have applied for the vacancy; that the Annapolis city attorney was decertified by the Court of Appeals for two years for failure to file his pro bono report with the Court; that the Attorney Grievance Commission has announced that complaints against Maryland attorneys have dropped in 2008; the report on judicial compensation that determined that Maryland judicial salaries rank in the bottom five of the fifty states; the 2007 Final Pro Bono Report has been published;

3. President Howard called upon Craig J. Little and Jason C. Hessler (with Andrew Radding absent) to report to the Board on their efforts in conducting a state-wide survey on the ability of attorneys to bring cell phones and other electronic devices into Circuit and District courthouses. For example, four counties ban cell phones and thirteen counties ban cell phones with cameras. A draft of an proposed administrative order that would be presented to the Conference of Circuit Court Judges for use throughout the state was reviewed by the Board. Certain modifications were adopted with the anticipation that the position of the MSBA would be presented to the Conference with a request that all administrative judges promulgate the order as drafted.

4. The discussion of the ABA Report No. 114 regarding Imputation of Conflicts of

Interest and the possible modification of Rule 1.10 of the Rules of Professional Conduct was postponed until the February, 2009 BOG meeting.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. The Executive Director reported the following changes in membership since the Board of Governors meeting on December 19, 2008:
Resignations – 10; Dropped members – 0; Deceased members – 2
New members - 1,046; Reinstatements - 38
Total membership count - 24,437

The total membership count is a record number for the MSBA. Section membership now stands at 24,894.

2. The Executive Director announced that for the first time electronic balloting will be instituted for any contested election for the upcoming Board of Governors for 2009-2010.

3. The Executive Director reported on Fastcase usage, the letters of support for the Citizenship Law Related Education Program for the Youth Achieving Potential Project proposal grant request, the letters of support for the nomination of Pro Bono Resource Center for the ABA Legal Access Award and the annual dinner with the Chief Judges and law school deans with the MSBA president and president-elect will take place on February 18, 2009.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY - None.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Kudel advised that total dues income was \$2,684,743.05, total income was \$3,295,506.83, and total expenses were \$1,873,535.12, leaving unexpended funds of \$1,422,147.71, all as of December 31, 2008.

E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

President-elect Cardaro advised the members of his continuing efforts regarding the selection of the location of the 2010 Mid-Year Meeting.

III. REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Richard A. Montgomery, Director of Government Relations, advised that the first annual Legislative Workshop was held on January 8, 2009 and was a great success.

IV. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Justin A. Browne, co-chair of the Military Law Organizing Committee was present and acquainted the Board with the committee's activities and that they have 50 members to date.

V. REPORTS OF SECTIONS

The Young Lawyers Section will be sponsoring the 18th Annual MSBA Charity Event to benefit the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence at LaScale Ristorante in Little Italy. The section is also having its annual Polar Bear Plunge on January 24, 2009 with the hope to raise \$5,000. Reportedly, 15 members have agreed so far to brave the elements.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

Judge William O. Carr requested that the topic of specialization first raised by him in the September, 2008 Board of Governors meeting be discussed. After consideration of the issue, President Howard will form a special committee to study and provide information to the Board of Governors about the topic. The Executive Director has searched the MSBA archives to provide information about the topic of specialization and how it had been discussed decades ago.

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Governors was advised during the meeting that retired Frederick County Circuit Court Judge Herbert L. Rollins had passed away after suffering from pancreatic cancer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - The Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Murphy, Secretary