

Maryland State Bar Association
MILITARY LAW COMMITTEE

First Committee Meeting
September 3, 2008 6:00 PM
520 W. Fayette St Baltimore, MD 21201

MINUTES

I. Welcome

In Attendance: Charles Blomquist, Justin Browne, Scott Allen, James Butler, Frank Levi, Milton Boyd, Chris Millard, John Osing, Sam Riley, Joe Pokempner, Judge Pamila Brown, Ravi Kambhampaty, (UM law student liaison) came towards the end.

- A. Charles & Justin introduced themselves and welcomed committee members.
- B. Reviewed formation and purpose of the Military Law Committee.

II. Outreach Efforts

- A. Charles & Justin discussed past and ongoing outreach efforts.
 - 1. Members suggested additional target members and approaches.
See infra Part III.B.3.

III. Proposed Activities

A. Establish a mission statement

- 1. Website defines purpose:
 - a. The Special Committee on Military Law will serve as a resource for attorneys and members of the military community who are facing issues pertaining to all aspects of military law. With several active duty bases, a military academy, and over 10,000 Reserve and National Guard members, the Committee will strive to be a relevant and helpful resource to those interested in not only the substantive aspect of military law, but also those who want to help our service men and women, and their families. Military law spans the legal spectrum, and includes military justice, the law of armed conflict, homeland security, environmental law, legal assistance, and contracts – to name but a few areas in which the committee can focus its attention. Given the variety of issues that the Military Law Committee can engage, this year's co-Chairs are

concentrating on three fundamental areas: 1) Establishing a venue for discussing, exploring, and informing the Association on substantive military law issues; 2) Exploring the impact the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) will have on Maryland and how the legal community can assist; and 3) Providing legal assistance to military members and their families.

<http://msba.org/sec%5Fcomm/committees/military/>

2. Justin has compiled information about other state bar associations' objectives. *See* attached.
3. The committee can define the mission statement using the purpose and drawing on other groups' statements.
 - a. The statement should include short and long-term objectives.
 - b. The mission statement will evolve over time.
4. Committee members identified main objectives:
 - a. Education
 - b. Legal assistance
 - c. Legislative efforts
 - i. Comparative analysis of Maryland Code *v.* other states
 - ii. Issues associated with Md. Code Public Safety Article

B. Membership Outreach

1. Judge Brown suggested approaching MSBA to request a reduction of dues for certain potential members.
 - a. Precedent: law students.
 - b. Need to draft a proposal and present it to MSBA's membership committee.
 - i. Will propose it as a pilot program.
 - c. Should explore various approaches.
 - i. For example, option to join the military law committee only for reduced amount rather than MSBA as a whole.
 - ii. Opt to receive less benefits (*e.g.*, not receive publications) to reduce cost to MSBA.
2. Judge Brown and others recommended using meetings to draw attention to the committee.
 - a. Citing her recent experience with ABA, Judge Brown offered to spearhead hosting a large-scale prominent annual event.
 - b. Joe Pokempner suggested partnering with other sections (*e.g.*, litigation, family law)
3. Identified resources for recruiting potential members
 - a. Active Duty (Aberdeen, Meade, Corps of Engineering)
 - i. Stressed need to get onto installations.

- a.) Judge Brown has a contact at Ft. Meade, speaks there annually.
 - ii. JAG
 - a.) James Butler has JAG contacts.
 - b.) Justin will work with UM law to identify alumni or students that interned with JAG
 - c.) Members will invite SGAs to designate officer liaison to our committee.
- b. Private Bar
 - i. Justin has a list from Martindale Hubbard.
 - ii. Ravi has a list from ABA.
- c. Defense Force - Joe Pokempner
 - i. Identified Judge Smalkin as good point person.
 - ii. Defense Force JAG Corps has ~ 45 members.
 - iii. Mr. Pokempner suggested that a member from the Military Law Committee address the Defense Force members. They have a muster in November and this would be a good opportunity to coordinate efforts.
- d. Law Students
 - i. Justin has been reaching out to schools by email
 - a.) Responses/interest expressed from UM Law, one student from UB, Georgetown Military Law Society, and the National Security Law Society at George Mason.
 - b.) Needs to follow up by phone + get students to join MSBA to become committee members.
 - 1. Some schools (UB) pay the membership fee, will discuss with other schools and explore other opportunities, *e.g.*, partnering students with alumni in or associated with the Military to mentor these students and possibly cover their fees as a donation to the school.
- e. Judges
 - i. Judge Smalkin's Veterans Court initiative.
 - ii. Judge Brown's ABA group.
- f. Local bar presidents
 - i. Charles or Justin address Ocean City event 10/17-18 where heads of all bar associations will be present.
- g. Veterans Administration/Benefits

C. Educational offerings

1. Major event
 - a. Inviting Lt. Gov. Brown to speak.
 - b. Annual speaker series.
2. MICPEL
 - a. Updated Servicemember Civil Relief Act
 - i. For attorneys and judges.
3. Publications
 - a. Sam Riley proposed newsletter.
 - b. Mr. Riley proposed some way to exchange practice tips.
 - i. Pamphlets
 - ii. Use website (resources page)
 - c. Chris Millard proposed using the JAG resources online since they provide frequent updates.
 - i. Could add to the website

D. Clarified BRAC focus

1. Assess impact on municipalities, courts, surrounding communities (*e.g.*, businesses) etc.
2. Explain the process to the MSBA membership.
3. Focusing on BRAC reinforces the integrated nature our committee will have.

E. Award

1. Frank Levi proposed offering an award. Charles described his previous ideas about this including having one for a uniformed person as well as a civilian.
2. Uniformed (named for BG Phil Sherman)
 - a. SGAs
3. Civilian
 - a. Support military

F. Attend Defense Force Event

1. Event in November
2. John Osing volunteered to attend

G. Other

1. Newsletter

IV. Identified Working Subcommittees

A. Awards

1. Frank Levi
2. Judge Brown has criteria from similar awards.

B. Website

1. Milton Boyd
2. Sam will help

C. Membership

1. James Butler
2. Charles
3. Student sub-sub committee
 - a. Justin
 - b. Ravi Kambhampaty will become UM law's student liaison and head of student liaisons.

D. Education

1. Judge Brown
2. Justin
3. Chris Millard

E. Budget

1. Charles will work with Paul Carlin to explain the committee's short-term and long-term goals.
2. Additional members will be needed in future.

V. Agreed on Next Meeting Date/Time

A. October 1, 2008 6:00 - MSBA Headquarters

1. After the meeting, one of the two new members (Yosefi Seltzer, Eric Feustel) pointed out that this date is a Jewish holiday; therefore, **date changed to October 8, 2008** - 6PM social/light dinner, 6:30 substantive meeting.

B. Aim to have the meeting first Wednesday of each month going forward.

C. Discussed need to rotate location (*e.g.*, Montgomery County) and alternative locations (Charles will send the restaurants list).

D. While winding down the meeting, some suggested moving the start time back to 6:30 to give people more time to get there, but there's also a risk of people who work in the city not waiting around.

1. Charles and Justin decided to keep the meeting at 6 PM, but hold the substantive portion of the meeting until 6:30 so that others have time to get there.

VI. Meeting Adjourned