

**Maryland State Bar Association**  
**MILITARY LAW COMMITTEE**

**Seventh Committee Meeting**  
**March 4, 2009 6:00 PM**  
520 W. Fayette St Baltimore, MD 21201

**MINUTES**

At the beginning of the meeting, Charles Blomquist called it into order and made a short introduction. There were a few new members in the group, so they and the rest of the committee introduced themselves. Names were given for each person with a short description of their backgrounds.

Justin Browne discussed the issue of the upcoming Veterans' Affairs conference. It will occur as an all-day event, roughly from 9am-5pm with lunch provided. One of the main talks will be with Br. Gen. James Atkins, whose presentation will be before lunch. There will be a training program on veterans benefits from 1-4pm in the afternoon. Other issues he briefly discussed were the Veterans' Court.

Charles Blomquist next mentioned the recent visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the dinner at the Army/Navy Club in Washington DC that occurred last month. He wanted to thank Mr. Robinson for setting up the event and everybody who could attend. He expressed his thanks for the staff of Walter Reed and the Army/Navy club for their support. He will coordinate a write-up of the event for MSBA's publications.

Next, the awards program was discussed. Some of the requirements for attaining the awards was discussed based on officer, enlisted, and civilian candidates. The applications for receiving the awards are going to be due by 4/15 this year and will be focused on MD active and reserve units.

The committee's website was mentioned next. It's now functioning with a link of upcoming events. Members suggested getting pictures from past events added to the website. Charles will include a stock photo from the Walter Reed trip with the article to be submitted to MSBA.

The outreach goals were discussed, with a 100+ member goal in the works. Members have been asked to help out in this effort, particularly with contacting military installations.

Legal Assistance was next mentioned. The 4/17 conference was recapped Justin mentioned the ABA grant the Committee and its partners were awarded to establish an emeritus attorneys pro bono project whereby retired attorneys received free training on helping veterans access their benefits in exchange for taking one pro bono case. Justin mentioned a related program in the works with the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono

Minutes drafted by John Osing, supplemented by Justin Browne

Program in Washington DC focusing on appeals within the US Court of Veterans Appeals. One of the attendees mentioned prior experience with this program noting that it was pretty intensive. Members questioned whether volunteers would be helping Maryland veterans or people from other states. Justin responded that he would inquire and try to get volunteers paired up with local veterans.

Member Meg Ferguson discussed the work Operation HOMEFRONT has been doing in Baltimore County, including housing vouchers, nursing home alternatives equivalent to Medicaid waivers, and criminal justice system diversion programs.

Charles noted that on 4/21 labor law Prof. Hayes will be hosting a lecture on USERRA with Kenan Williams presented. It will be at the University of MD Baltimore at 6:30 pm in the moot court room. A reception will follow.

Congressman Kratovil agreed to speak at the awards presentation, though a date hasn't been set yet. Meg Ferguson suggested joining an established larger event so as to bootstrap on the pre-existing marketing and momentum rather than starting from scratch.

A golf outing was mentioned for committee members at Ft. Meade (need 20 people) was proposed for a future date.

Charles will look into getting the BRAC event going again.

The veteran's court was again briefly mentioned with certain difficulties concerning its creation discussed. Meg noted that Balt. Co. has been trying to track the number of veterans before the courts through prison screening. Meg provided details about possible funding opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned with the date of the next meeting being 4/1 at 6pm.