

## MSBA Delivery of Legal Services – March 7, 2011- Minutes from Meeting

Present: Ann Lembo, Suzanne Sangree, Robin Jacobs, Ulani Goldstone, Yoanna Moises, Harriet Robinson, Lauren Kallins, Tracy Brown, Ed Fee, Pooja Regmi, Margaret Johnson

SS: Condolences for a talented and dedicated employee of Legal Aid, Harbour Partesotti, who recently passed away tragically, at a young age. She will be missed dearly.

Amendments to minutes? Correction to minutes – There are four representatives who would serve 4 2-year terms. Move as amended? Second? Yes. Vote. Passes.

EF: Legislative committee – hearings last week in House and Senate on source of income legislation.

LK: Senate hearing difficult. Sen. Brochin asked lots of questions. House went more smoothly. On Friday, there was a meeting convened of landlord lobby and advocates for source of income. It was a waste of time and painful to sit through. Landlords were not interested in working out a compromise. Their primary objection is that it is not that we don't want to rent to poor people, we just don't want to be forced into federal program. Comes down to the votes. Sen. Zirkin is the swing vote. It is a tough battle. People are shoring up their supporters.

YM and AL: National average is 69% of those approved for housing vouchers are able to use them. In Baltimore County – only 33% are able to utilize their vouchers.

SS: Discussion of work with landlord lobby on clean streets bill in Baltimore City.

AL: City is losing their poverty population. County is gaining poverty population.

SS: What can we do?

LK: Anyone who knows Zirkin talk to him about the legislation.

SS: EF, can you call Zirkin - Talk about poverty rate; 33% voucher rate; no safety net; YM will forward EF testimony and LK will forward fact sheet

Richard Montgomery, MSBA lobbyist, gave us permission to submit the testimony, which means it is compliant with Bd of Governors and Bd of Laws

### Guardianship Handbook

SS: Final draft was due Jan. 25; YM will remind Virginia Rowthorne. VR did say UMD will fund graphics. SS will send out email of date when will be reviewing the photos, etc. meeting with graphic designer.

AL: There is a memorial bench for Joan O'Sullivan and it would be great to have a photo in the handbook on that.

SS: We will have a panel at Partners for Justice Conference. Panel will be Ellen Callagary moderated by Lauren Kallins and either Andrew Montagna, the UMD student who worked on the handbook, or Virginia

Rowthorne. We also have a panel at the MSBA Annual Meeting – Ellen Callagary has agreed to be on the panel and Ed Fee may be able to as well. Maybe we don't want to ask Ellen to travel out there. Maybe we need to give her a choice.

EF and SS: Ellen Callagary should be listed as an author or given credit in the Handbook.

RJ: A new project: Pro Bono Institute Project in UT – Directory of all the attorneys – trying to get that out to the attorneys and asks people if willing to work on pro bono and if so in what areas. Then trying to create a data base of those attorneys to do pro bono work. PBRC list is helpful, but if could call them.

MJ: I would be worried to step on PBRC toes.

HR: PBRC works with the bar. Could coordinate with them.

TB: PBRC might be willing to work on this.

YM: And we have MVLS.

TB: So if it was public access, we could all enter it.

AL: Maybe it is a way we could also recognize people who do pro bono.

YG: Give credit for CLE for pro bono?

LK: That is a political topic.

SS: Help facilitate an automatic sign up for pro bono directory;

TB: Needs to be a check off when pay dues; through court of appeals pro bono reporting requirement. MSBA directory is very sortable.

LK: Sharon Goldsmith is the place to start.

RJ: Will raise with Sharon.

SS: Business Law Section's proposal to expand Board of Governors. Certain sections have already signed on. Currently, Bd of Gov. is determined by jurisdiction where practice law. Business Law proposes it should be based on substantive law. There are a lot of folks who participate through sections and don't participate in rest of Bar. They are looking for support for change.

EF: Bus. Law Section tried this previously with 5 largest. Now trying to get smaller substantive law sections involved. What is a substantive law section? Is Delivery of Legal Serv. A substantive area?

SS: We are substantive – poverty law.

EF: we need to clarify.

AL: We represent lots of substantive laws.

EF: I would rather it say in bylaws we are a substantive law section.

HR: We came out of the IOLTA committee or this committee could have coordinated with the IOLTA.

AL: Delivery of Legal Services is in the ABA too.

YG: What is the problem they are trying to fix?

SS: They are supposed to consult with the substantive section implicated by policy work by the MSBA. They didn't on filing fees. We let them know that. This proposal is aimed to target this.

YG: Another way to solve this problem?

SS: AL suggested that instead of proposal that says large section get two spots and small section gets one spot. It rotates. Do we want to approve of a proposal where being member of substantive law is a second-class position? Only one year per section>

EF: Each board of gov. has a two year term.

MJ: Likely to pass?

EF: No

SS: Should we propose two year terms? And change which substantive sections have a chance to fill that seat? We are minority of bar but represent majority of population in section.

SS: We support expansion of representation on Board of Governors from substantive law sections provided that delivery of legal services is a substantive law section.

Votes: 10

Abstaining: 1

Passes

SS: So we are in favor of change for representation from Board of Governors.

SS: We want to propose amendments to business law proposal. We are in agreement.

SS: New vote: We offer this amendment: the expansion to include 6 new seats on the Board of Governors open to all substantive sections regardless of size on a rotating basis for one year terms and provided that DLSC is a substantive law section. All approve.

SS: Will present our amendment to Business Law Section and discuss the need to have minority voices heard on Board of Governors, etc.