

MSBA



Judicial Administration Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

(subject to Council approval at the next meeting in the fall)

May 22, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE: *Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Chair; Hon. Ruth Jakubowski, Vice Chair; David C. Chiu, Esquire, Secretary; Hon. Paul E. Alpert; Master Catherine T. Beck; Richard L. Flax, Esquire; Master Mary M. Kramer; Hon. Robert C. Nally; John E. Nunn, III, Esquire; David L. Palmer, Esquire; T. Christine Pham, Esquire; Hon. Eileen C. Sweeney; Hon. Julia B. Weatherly; and Laura Glasgow, (Court of Appeals assistant to Judge Battaglia).*

The final meeting of out-going Chair Lynne Battaglia was called to order.

The minutes from the **April 23, 2008**, meeting were approved.

Masters Kramer and Beck gave an update on the Master's Project. The Administrative Office of the Courts has put together a subcommittee that will coordinate and administer an educational program that implements our Project recommendations for annual training and continuing education for masters. Replacements for the archaic "Master" title were also discussed.

Frank Olmstead and Rosalyn Pugh's e-mailed May report from the now expanded Legislation *and Rules* Sub-Committee was reviewed. As a result of their efforts, rules committee updates will be reported in *Amicus Curiae* on-line. Our L&R Sub-Committee will be monitoring and reporting new Rules Orders given the greater impact rules updates should have on judicial administration year round.

Judge Lynne "Jeff Foxworthy" Battaglia gave a final update on our Convention's *Are You Smarter Than a Law Student?* program on Maryland civil procedure. There will be power point with questions, responders will be used for audience participation, her new law clerks will be the Law Students that contestants and the audience will *attempt* to challenge, and prizes will be awarded. The program is only possible with the generous sponsorships of the Venable lawfirm, Paul Sandler and MICPEL for the power point, responders and food (since we have the Thursday, June 12th, 11:30am lunch time slot).

Judge Weatherly and Chair-Elect Jakubowski gave an update on the upcoming term's Family Law and Self Representation Project. The Family Law Section Council has confirmed their section's participation in this joint project, with the goal of creating guidelines for attorneys and judges in how to deal with self-representing litigants in child custody cases. Data will be collected from attorneys and at local bar association family law meetings held for the benefit of self representation litigants. Our sub-committee will attempt to coordinate our efforts with Judge Irma Raker, the new head of the Judicial project.

Newsletter editor David Chiu reminded everyone of the need for contributions for an end-of-year/term Final Edition that will be published prior to the Convention to headline the *Smarter Than A Law Student* program.

Applications for five positions that should be opening on the Council next term were considered. Montgomery County Circuit Court *Michael D. Mason*, Baltimore City Family Division Master *Andrea F. Kelly*, and U.B. Law School adjunct professor and Baltimore County Board of Education Hearing Examiner *Carolyn H. Thaler, Esquire*, were all recommended by current members of the Council and all unanimously approved for inclusion in next term's Council. It was also decided to keep the two remaining Council spots open until the beginning of the new term when further consideration could be given to any remaining and new applications.

Nominations and elections were conducted for the officers of the next term's Council. The assent of Vice Chair Ruth Jakubowski to Chair, the re-election of incumbent Secretary David C. Chiu and the election of Vice Chair Richard Flax and Assistant to the Secretary Mary Kramer were all unanimously approved by the Council. Ratification by the Section will be conducted by outgoing Chair Battaglia at the annual section meeting at this month's Convention.

In adjournment, Chair Elect Ruth Jakubowski expressed the Council's sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the work, dedication, guidance and humor given by outgoing chair The Honorable Lynne Battaglia during her entire two year term and presented a token of everyone's appreciation along with a custom cake courtesy of Judge Nalley. Sincerest thanks were also expressed to Judge Battaglia's law clerk extraordinaire, Laura Glasgow, for all the behind the scenes efforts she did to ensure that each dinner meeting went as smoothly as they did. In gratitude, Judge Battaglia and Ms. Glasgow, with the help of The Honorable Weatherly and other members of the council, gave everyone a rousing edition of *OOOOOklahoma!*, a fitting ending to a wonderful term.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY M. KRAMER, Master
Assistant to the Secretary Elect
&
DAVID C. CHIU, Esquire
Secretary, JAS Council