

MSBA



Judicial Administration Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE *Richard L. Flax, Esquire, Chair; Hon. Julia B. Weatherly, Vice Chair; David C. Chiu, Esquire, Secretary; Master Mary M. Kramer, Assistant to the Secretary; Hon. Ruth Jakubowski, Past Chair; Hon. Marybeth McCormick; Hon. Robert C. Nally; Hon. John E. Nunn, III; Franklin B. Olmsted, Esquire; David L. Palmer, Esquire; T. Christine Pham, Esquire; Rosalyn E. Pugh, Esquire; Hon. Eileen C. Sweeney; and Carolyn H. Thaler, Esquire.*

The meeting was called to order at a new location, the Elkridge Furnace Inn, in Elkridge, Maryland.

The minutes from the **March 9, 2011**, meeting were approved.

The Chairman gave a detailed report on the two day MSBA Planning Retreat organized to address multiple issues the MSBA will face in the coming years, which he attended at the end of last month, key among which was if and how the MSBA would handle controversial issues.

Sub-committee chair Olmstead gave a recitation how last month's bills were discussed and voted upon by way of e-mail following the meeting. Since there were no new bills to review for this month's meeting, co-Chairs Olmstead and Pugh earned a well-deserved respite from the tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work they do every month reviewing and summarizing legislative bills for the Council's review. Kudos and thanks as always to them for their tireless efforts!

Vice Chair Weatherly updated that her Self-Representation Project report is now in the final writing stages with her law clerk. Switching to her MSBA Rules Committee hat, there was an intriguing discussion about that committee's work on changing contributory negligence to comparative negligence by rule.

This somehow segued into a discussion on the new direction and reorganization the Judicial Institute Training has taken under the inexhaustible leadership of former Chair Battaglia.

The Chair discussed how both the Judicial Administration Section and Council need to recruit new members based on diversity, something long-time Council member Judge Alpert had successfully accomplished for the council in years past.

Several names and recommendations were made for the three or four available spots on the JAC. It was agreed that any additional nominees should be submitted to the Chair for Council discussion at the final JAC May meeting (which according to the meeting agenda has already been scheduled to occur at the MSBA Bar Center in downtown Baltimore).

It was suggested that the Judicial Administration Section's 100+ members as well as past Chairs could be invited to a ticketed end of the year meeting in the future.

And with that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID C. CHIU, Esquire
Secretary, JAS Council