

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010  
RIVERFRONT CONFERENCE CENTER  
DONALDSON BROWN  
200 MOUNT ARARAT FARM ROAD  
PORT DEPOSIT, MARYLAND 21904  
5:30 P.M.**

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President Thomas C. Cardaro called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Twenty-nine (29) Governors were in attendance.

**I. MINUTES**

The minutes of the last Board of Governors meeting held on March 23, 2010 were approved as presented.

**II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

**A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

1. President Thomas C. Cardaro reported on various informational items, including the retirement of Bedford T. Bentley, Jr., Secretary of the State Board of Law Examiners, various articles regarding judicial elections and appointment of members of the judiciary, a request from Governor O'Malley's office for an MSBA member to serve on the State Prosecutor's Selection and Disabilities Commission, a report on the MSBA's representatives in the ABA House of Delegates, a request from Chief Judge Ben Clyburn for input from the Bar Association on the proposed Integrated State-wide Case Management System, President Cardaro's letter to Senator Ulysses Currie and Representative Norman Conway regarding the MSBA's position on recent legislation proposed regarding the University of Maryland School of Law Clinical Law Programs, the MSBA's provision of feedback regarding applicants for the Attorney Grievance Commission Bar Counsel position, a recent report of the Professionalism Committee entitled "Ideals of Professionalism," and local Bar Associations' positions on mandatory continuing legal education.

**B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Executive Director Paul V. Carlin presented some historical information regarding the Port Deposit site of the Board of Governors Meeting including that the original owner of the Conference Center, Donaldson Brown, who built the Port Deposit house in 1939, was once thought to be the richest man in Maryland. At last appraisal the property was valued at \$450 million dollars, and it is widely regarded as one of the more scenic locales in Maryland - - sitting on a cliff directly above the Susquehanna River.

2. Mr. Carlin reported on membership. There were no resignations, thirty new members, and fifty-six reinstated members, resulting in a total Bar Association membership of 23,095.

3. Mr. Carlin reported on the continuing assimilation of MICPEL into the MSBA. MSBA staff member, Lawrence Hicks, was thanked for his good work in salvaging usable parts of the MICPEL computer system. In attendance and introduced at the meeting were two former MICPEL employees, Andrea Terry, who will manage program presentation, and Joanne Daniel, who will manage all CLE publications.

4. Mr. Carlin reported on the results of the only contested election for seats on the Board of Governors, which occurred in the Sixth District (Montgomery County). The return on ballots mailed was modest. There were seven candidates for six positions and the one candidate who was not elected practiced primarily in the District of Columbia. Mr. Carlin reported on plans to move to electronic elections in the future.

5. Mr. Carlin reported on an inquiry regarding the possible formation of a Maritime Law committee. Mr. Carlin has requested additional information from the lawyer who made the inquiry, and is awaiting a response.

6. Mr. Carlin reported on various miscellaneous matters, including the Bar Association Insurance Trust's new website, national bar admission statistics which show, among other things, in Maryland, a relatively large number of admitted attorneys in comparison to its relatively small geographic size, and the introduction of a searchable case law database by the internet company Google.

#### **C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Secretary Henry E. Dugan, Jr. reported that all matters considered by the Board of Governors were discussed at the recent Executive Committee Meeting and such discussions were consistent with the presentation at the Board of Governors Meeting.

#### **D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Treasurer John P. Kudel reported that it is anticipated that annual actual dues income for this fiscal year would be approximately \$35,000 (1.2%) less than budgeted annual dues income. Total income for the year to date was reported at approximately \$3,876,000. Total expenses to date were approximately \$2,830,000, leaving a budgeted but not yet expended amount of approximately \$1,045,000.

#### **E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President-Elect Thomas D. Murphy made no report.

### **III. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. Paul Ethridge, Chair of the Committee on Laws, provided an “End of Legislative Session Report” and directed the Governors to the written report in that regard prepared by Richard A. Montgomery III, Director of Legislative and Government Relations. Among the issues reported upon by Mr. Ethridge were the success of the lobbying efforts of Mr. Montgomery and the MSBA in securing legislation providing for improved funding for the Maryland Legal Services Corporation through various filing fee surcharges, legislation restructuring of the leadership of the Office of the Public Defender, successful blocking of a proposed transfer of funds from the Land Record Improvement Fund, in part due to lobbying by the MSBA Real Property Section, and legislation authorizing a vote on a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the minimum amount in controversy required to request a civil jury trial to \$20,000. President Cardaro and the Board of Governors recognized and thanked Mr. Ethridge for his work and the work of the Committee on Laws during the legislative session.

### **IV. REPORTS OF SECTIONS**

Jason Hessler, Chair of the Young Lawyers Section, reported on the recently completed successful Annual Young Lawyers Section’s Fundraiser held this year at the Havana Club in Baltimore. Mr. Hessler reported over 150 attendees and that the event raised approximately \$5,000 on behalf of the Young Lawyers Section designated charity, the Homeless Persons Representation Project.

### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & GENERAL ORDERS**

1. Marshall Paul, Chairman of the CLE Taskforce, reported on the continued successful efforts of the Taskforce in assimilating the functions and assets of MICPEL into the MSBA. Mr. Paul reported that the Taskforce’s direction has shifted from salvaging the best parts of MICPEL to that of developing the MSBA into a single-stop legal education shopping location. Mr. Paul reported on changes to the MSBA’s website to offer access to seminars and publications, and a pending request for proposals to be submitted to legal education vendors. In addition, Mr. Paul reported that a subcommittee of the Taskforce has been created to assess the intellectual property issues which the MSBA is currently facing given the demise of MICPEL.

2. Mr. Paul distributed to the Board of Governors the list of CLE publications currently offered for sale, as well as the upcoming programs to be presented by the MSBA. President Cardaro thanked Mr. Paul and all the members of the CLE Taskforce, including, Thomas Dolina, Stanford Gann, Elizabeth Morris, Rebecca Strandberg, and Christopher West, for their guidance and leadership in the MSBA’s assumption of the functions of MICPEL.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

President Cardaro introduced Antonio Fasanelli, Executive Director of the Homeless Persons Representation Project, to discuss the ongoing activities of the Project. Ms. Fasanelli reported that the project was created twenty-three years ago as a project of the MSBA with special support from the Young Lawyers Section. Ms. Fasanelli explained that the project is not a general legal services provider, but instead has a staff of six attorneys whose overall goal is to end homelessness in Maryland. Ms. Fasanelli noted a current special project of the Homeless Persons Representation Project which involves training of attorneys to represent homeless Veterans in securing benefits. At present, that special project has seventy lawyers enrolled. Ms. Fasanelli noted that the MLSC provided start-up funding for the project and she thanked the Board of Governors for its efforts in supporting the Maryland Legal Services Corporation funding legislation this past legislative session.

### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Cardaro provided an early preview of programs to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the MSBA in Ocean City, Maryland on June 9-12, 2010. President Cardaro also reminded the Board of Governors of the next meeting of the Board of Governors to be held on May 13-15 in Cambridge, Maryland, with spouses/guests invited. Lastly, ex-President, Kathy Howard, complimented the Bar staff on its initial effort at providing electronic agendas and supporting documents for Board of Governors meetings and suggested that the practice become standard.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Baxter  
Assistant Secretary