

MSBA – Delivery of Legal Services

Jan. 5, 2011, Meeting Minutes

Present: Harriet Robinson, Nevett Steele, Robin Jacobs, Marianne Hendricks, Margaret Johnson, Andrew Montagna, Tracy Brown, Sharon Goldsmith, Lauren Kallins, Suzanne Sangree, Ann Lembo, Bonnie Sullivan, Ellen Callegary, Ed Fee, Virginia Rowthorne, Yoanna Moises

Updates:

VR: Reported that Reba Cornman will review the geriatric portions of handbook

SS : Update on planning commission: nominations are now submitted to the President. SS will call to follow-up.

EF and LK: Legislation Comm: No updates; broad coalition – to prohibit discrimination in housing on basis of source of income; Richard Montgomery has been approached. Bar would like to see the bill first.

MH: Budget: asked for money for food and \$8,000 for Partners for Justice conference and John Price asked for \$900 for the lawyer referral conference.

HR: Judicare evaluation – still being reviewed – no update.

BS: Limited Scope Representation Rules update – will allow pro se litigants to have help in filing pleadings or appearing in court or getting guidance without creating an attorney-client relationship. Dramatic change in MD; been adopted in other jurisdictions. These rules would permit ghostwriting. Have been controversial. Have been before the Access to Justice Commission. Adopted with some caveats. If get adopted, will go to Rules Committee. BS and TB communicated support of this section. TB: WLC got a significant amount of funding to start a limited scope project. It is to test some of the things the committee has been talking about.

BS: Time to nominate for Board of Governors – nominate public interest attorneys to board of governors. Nominating Committee Chair for Baltimore City is Mark Scurti. There are four representatives that would serve 2 year terms. Baltimore City; 3 reps for 2 year terms in Baltimore County; Deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 1.

SS: Nominate Ed Fee and Ann Lembo as our candidates for Board of Governors. (Editor's note: Only Ed Fee submitted application.)

Seconded and Approved.

Discussion of nomination process.

Guardianship Handbook:

Virginia: Gave background on Guardianship Handbook.

Substantive discussion of handbook:

Memorializing Joan O'Sullivan

Virginia and Andrew will update with new form for power of attorney (eff. 10/1/10)

Ed will work on revising the Trust section

Will have Ellen and hopefully Jason Frank work on providing one possible plan in response to beginning vignettes

Reba Cornman will review geriatric portion

Ellen discussed tone of handbook. Intention is to be clear that guardianship is only ONE option.

New Title: Handbook for Guardianship and Other Alternatives

Tracy – thought the handbook was very respectful, nuanced

Ellen: want to make sure to have it accessible to lawyers and consumers

Discussion of graphics and photos.

Virginia – graphic designer will know how to pull quotes, include pictures/photos

Graphics v. photographs – graphics might happen more quickly.

Suzanne – we can shift some of the money for this project to graphics;

Tracy – we should think about how to present this online; PDF or something more – should it go on people's law library; MDLSC

Virginia – will get an estimate for graphics once completed.

Lauren: What happens when we run out of printed copies? Will organizations just download and run copies?

Ellen: Could you ask or should we get the University of Maryland School of Law to contribute \$ for graphics and printing to this handbook? Approach Dean Haddon?

SS: Need to have a volunteer to obtain estimates from publisher?

Virginia can get an estimate from Univ. of MD for approx. 5,000 copies.

Yoanna can also get an estimate.

SS: We need to develop the specs to get prices.

Get edits to Virginia by Jan. 14, 2011

Copyright will be jointly held by UM Law School and MSBA – SS will register for that.

Virginia is drafting acknowledgments, including Joan O’Sullivan.

VR: Will circulate a final draft by Jan. 21

Final comments due to Virginia by Jan. 28

What websites will the handbook be on? – MSBA, DLSC, MDLC, MD Justice, People’s Law Library, UMD Law School Law and Healthcare Program. These websites will be identified in handbook for updates.

The Handbook should contain one or two contact people where comments could be sent: Virginia Rowthorne: for law school; Chair of MSBA Section of Delivery of Legal Services

Andrew agreed to assist Virginia on the updates

SG: Partnership for Justice Conference – one proposal is for a panel on Guardianship with Virginia, Lauren, Andrew, Ellen and Ed. Also discussed attempts to have X number of spots for pro bono attnys and staff.

RE: MSBA training

TB: Reduced Fee – negotiation re: reduced fee – 2 scholarships available – case by case basis

MSBA CLE – in general is limiting courses in order to ensure good attendance.

SG: Update on mandatory CLE: Judge Battaglia involved in Professionalism study. There will be a survey on voluntary CLE undertaken by MD Bar members.

Discussion of mandatory CLE

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday March 7, 2011 at 6 pm place TBD.

Meeting adjourned.