

**Justice Action Group Executive Committee Meeting
September 7, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.
SJC Conference Room
Capital Judicial Center, Augusta**

MINUTES

Present: J. Mead, J. Rich, Jaye Martin, Diana Scully, Charles Dingman, Al Ayre, and Ginger Davis. By telephone: Jamie Kilbreth

I. Approval of Minutes: (June 26, 2017 meeting) No additions or corrections were noted. Justice Mead asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made and was seconded. Minutes of 6/26/17 approved.

II. Report from the Chair - J. Mead

a. Limited representation proposal status: Justice Mead reported that his earlier proposal should probably come off the active inventory list. Proposals for limited representation leadership initiatives have failed to garner support from either the court or the bar association. Justice Mead and Liz Scheffee will continue to review options.

b. Lawyers in Libraries: Justice Mead and Al Ayre confirmed that the New Lawyers Committee will continue to follow up with the ongoing Lawyers in Libraries program.

ACTION PLAN: Justice Mead will reach out to Stan Tupper to touch base and inquire as to what they could use from JAG for resources and support.

c. Legal Assistance for hurricane victims: Justice Mead reported that the Texas Supreme Court has issued an emergency order allowing attorneys from other states to render pro bono legal assistance to victims of the recent hurricane. Apparently, the enormous need for legal services has significantly outstripped the ability of legal service providers and assistance is greatly needed. Justice Mead suggested that the Katahdin Counsel program parameters should be expanded to allow credit for pro bono services rendered pursuant to outreach by Texas legal services providers, and JAG should encourage Maine lawyers to participate. The Executive Committee unanimously supported the proposal.

Al Ayre reported that the MSBA has been in touch with Texas bar associations and is offering support. Diana Scully reported that her MJF counterparts in Texas have been hit hard and the MJF is offering support. Both indicated they would keep the Executive Committee apprised of any significant developments.

Ginger Davis indicated that soliciting financial support for Texas providers would put JAG in conflict with its primary objective of encouraging financial support for Maine providers. The Executive Committee confirmed that JAG's support for legal assistance to Texas hurricane victims would not include solicitations for cash contributions.

ACTION PLAN: Justice Mead will propose to the SJC that Katahdin Counsel qualifying hours will include pro bono services rendered in conjunction with Texas providers' legal aid to hurricane victims. Al Ayre and Diana Scully will keep the JAG Executive Committee apprised of any developments in their discussions with their Texas counterparts.

d. Justice Mead reported that the SJC will discuss the Pro Bono Committee's proposal to have pro bono hours reported in conjunction with the Board of Overseers annual attorney registration at the next SJC administrative meeting.

III. Vice-Chair's Report – Judge Rich. On 8/22/17, Juliet Holmes-Smith, Sara Wolff and April Faith-Slaker had a call with Judge Rich regarding the ABA survey. This will be discussed with the Pro Bono Committee at its next meeting on Sept. 25th. Judge Rich reported that while Maine's attorney per capita pro bono service is on average with the rest of the country at 36.3 hours per annum, there is a big difference between private practitioners, corporate attorneys, and government practitioners: Corporate attorneys on average provided under 11 hours; private practitioners were doing about 45 hours. Also, Maine lawyers gave a higher import to their pro bono work: 89% said it was important or very important to them. The rest of the country was at 80%. Judge Rich will report back to Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Judge Rich asked Jamie if there was anything new on the IDEXX front. Jamie indicated there is no new developments, but he's been continuing to speak with Jackie Studer. She said IDEXX has been really busy this summer, but will get back to Jamie within a month or so.

IV. Pro Bono Committee Report– Judge Rich (See III, above)

V. Justice Systems Committee Report – Jaye Martin reported that Groups 1 and 2 are inactive, but Group 3 is active and has met four times at this point. They will be meeting twice more and expect to be ready to present a report thereafter. She indicated Judge Darwin would be joining their meeting.

VI. Legislative Committee Report – Charlie Dingman - Charlie will try to convene the Legislative Committee in late December or early January to take stock of the status of the Legislature and evaluate the environment for access to justice issues. Diana Scully reported that Access to Justice Day at the Legislature will occur on April 4, 2018; Charlie confirmed that the Legislative Committee will work with others on the planning for the event.

VII. ACP Chair's Report – Jamie Kilbreth – Jamie reported on his conversations with IDEXX. He inquired whether anyone had heard anything about the proposed amendment to Rule 89. Justice Mead reported that the matter had been discussed by the SJC, and is awaiting further attention.

VIII. Website and Logo discussion – Diana Scully - Diana circulated a copy of possible letterhead. She said once the JAG Executive Committee signs off on it, people can start using it. She questioned about how the judges should appear on the letterhead. Justice Mead and Judge Rich will follow up with Diana and review how their courts should appear, if at all, on the "PARTICIPANTS" list. Ginger would like to list two large corporations for the simple reason that it's not just lawyers and providers who are participants. She suggested IDEXX and maybe another large corporation so we can show there is a business community

presence and it's not just JAG. IDEXX and Unum were suggested. Diana suggested Ken Spirer. Judge Rich pointed out that the risk with listing corporate participants is the exclusion of others. Jaye inquired as to the criteria to add a corporation; for example, is a single big project sufficient; how do they get put on the letterhead, and when should they come off? Giving a formal seat on the JAG board to a corporate representative was discussed. Ginger wants everyone to see that the business community cares about what we're doing. She said maybe we can ask someone at IDEXX if they'd like to be on the board. She wants a big corporation though, not a small business. She doesn't think this would be a big hurdle, to get someone from IDEXX or UNUM to take a seat on the JAG board. Jamie isn't sure if we could do it right away or if it would take a few months.

Justice Mead concurs that we should get a corporate entity on the board. Jamie will follow up on this with IDEXX.

ACTION PLAN: Justice Mead and Judge Rich will follow up with their courts to confirm their appearance on the "PARTICIPANTS" list and confirm how their individual names would appear on the letterhead. Jamie will follow up with IDEXX to see about their involvement on the letterhead.

IX. Executive Committee Organization Updates:

Courts: AMM reported they are moving ahead with the CMS project and the transparency report should be out later this month.

ACP: Reported earlier.

MJF: Diana reported they have spent a lot of time over the summer with Campaign for Justice. They now have a new director, Trish O'Donnell. She just started this past Tuesday. The next Campaign for Justice steering committee and subcommittee meetings are set for Sept. 19th. The Campaign chair will be Bill Robitzek for next year and he will also continue to be Chair of the Maine Justice Foundation. MJF has a board meeting tomorrow. After the budget is passed, they will be able to give more specifics.

ACTION PLAN: Justice Mead will extend an invitation to Trish O'Donnell to attend the December board meeting and Diana Scully will ask her to present a brief report.

MSBA: Al said Lawyers in Libraries will continue. It will probably be limited to libraries that have been successful in the past or libraries that specifically request it rather than statewide. Al said MSBA is expected to have a large turnover at the end of the year. Al inquired whether Diana had had an opportunity to catch up on the Access to Justice page in MSBA's journal. Al said they want to make that an ongoing feature of the journal. Diana needs to know specific deadlines and Al indicated he or someone from MSBA would get those deadlines to her.

MTLA: No report

X. Other Business: None discussed

XI. Reconfirm Future Meetings of JAG Executive Committee and Board

2017 DATES:

JAG Board (all meetings in the Feeney Conference Room on the first floor of the Cumberland County Courthouse):

December 7 at 3:00 - Confirmed

Executive Committee (change of location: Feeney Conference Room, Cumberland County Courthouse):

November 29 - Confirmed

XII: PROPOSED 2018 DATES: AMM will submit proposed dates for next year at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cindy Brochu, Administrative Assistant to Justice Mead.