

**Justice Action Group
JAG Executive Committee**

**September 5, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.
Mt. Washington Conference Room - Portland**

MINUTES

Present: J. Mead, J. Rich, Jamie Kilbreth, Charlie Dingman, and Sue Roche
By Phone: Diana Scully

I. Approval of Minutes from the June 6, 2019 JAG Executive Committee Meeting. No additions or corrections noted. Minutes approved.

II. Report from the Chair – J. Mead

- a. Inventory updates: ATJ Day will be March 17, 2020.
- b. Update on IOLTA discussions: The SJC issued a rule that capped the use of IOLTA funds for administrative purposes at 22%. The issue of use of IOLTA funds for lobbying purposes has been forwarded to a working group for further study and recommendations that will be reported in December, 2019. A meeting was held in late August between representatives of the MJF and the SJC to discuss IOLTA issues. Neither Diana Scully nor Justice Mead were able to attend, but both were advised that the meeting was very positive and focused on the future and keeping the lines of communication open.
- c. Update on reporting pro bono hours with annual attorney registration: The Board of Overseers of the Bar was under the mistaken impression that the SJC had approved the addition of optional pro bono hours reporting on the annual attorney registration, and prepared the 2019 online registration with the option. In fact, the SJC had not received a final proposal. The registration form was reverted, at the last moment, to the previous form, and the new additions were archived while awaiting SJC review.
- d. 2019 Katahdin Counsel numbers: Justice Mead shared the stats database. Numbers are down and continue to decline. Justice Mead believes attorneys are continuing to provide pro bono work, but are just not participating in KC. *ACTION PLAN: Refer proposals to the Pro Bono Committee for further discussion: (1) Reach out to individuals within large and medium firms to obtain a contact person who can remind attorneys to file their KC forms; (2) have firms provide pro bono hours for their members; and (3) have legal services providers who use private attorneys for pro bono work report those hours on behalf of qualifying attorneys who provide more than 50 hours under the auspices of the provider.*
- e. Jennifer Lechner to address December Board meeting: Justice Mead is hoping to have Jennifer Lechner address the Board in December about

funding for ATJ commissions. [NOTE: Jennifer has committed to attend our December Board meeting.]

III/IV. Vice-Chair's Report & Pro Bono Committee Report– Judge Rich: Judge Rich reported that the committee did not meet in June because Jen Archer has left and Justice Cuddy passed away. He said they have a great committee, but need additional members after having lost these two important contributors. Justice Mead suggested sending a mailing to the JAG board asking if anyone knows of anyone who would make a good addition. He suggested the email should come from Judge Rich.

ACTION PLAN: Judge Rich said he will run it by Juliet Holmes-Smith first since she's not in attendance today.

- a. Reporting of Pro Bono Hours w/Annual Attorney Registration: Judge Rich explained that, at the Pro Bono Committee's last meeting in March, Julia Sheridan reported that the Board of Bar Overseers was ready to proceed pending SJC approval. Apparently, BOBO then ran with it not realizing it hadn't been approved yet. [NOTE: Justice Mead reported that he had not received the final proposal to submit to the SJC. Judge Rich will meet with Juliet Holmes-Smith to finalize the proposal and forward it to Justice Mead.]
- b. Pro Bono celebration/event concept: No report given.
- c. Committee membership: See IV above.

V. Legislative Committee Report – Charlie Dingman: LD214 passed. Surcharges on fees that are forwarded to the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund are increased from 7% to 9%. Justice Mead was very pleased with the success of the initiative and thanked all who participated in the effort.

VI. ACP Chair's Report – Jamie Kilbreth: Jaime reported that he and Charlie Dingman are part of the working group that is looking into the issue of IOLTA funds and lobbying. The group is planning on having a report and recommendations for the SJC by December. Jamie proposed the idea of Maine creating an actual ATJ Commission that would give greater flexibility for the leadership to become involved in advocating for funding. Justice Mead agreed that the concept was well worth exploring, but noted that any statewide commission would need support from the three branches of government, a charter, and a funding stream in order to operate as commissions from other states operate.

ACTION PLAN: Continue to discuss and explore this concept.

VII. Executive Committee Organization Updates:

- Courts: Justice Mead said the court is focused on dedicating significant resources on the future e-filing and the case management system. A group of civil services providers is working closely with court administrators to share their expertise on working with the populations they assist. It is anticipated that the new case management system will "go live" in Region V (Penobscot and Piscataquis counties) in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021.
- ACP: See ACP report by Jamie above.
- MJF: Diana said they had an interesting time putting their budget together this year. The board will be voting on it tomorrow (9/6) along with some grant

proposals that have been submitted. In early November the foundation is going to be having a retreat to think about their past and future. On October 7th at 2:00 there is a Blaine House tea for them to say thank you to the financial institutions that participate in IOLTA.

- MSBA/Lawyers in Libraries: No representative present.
- MTLA: No representative present.

VIII. Other Business: None noted.

IX. Confirm 2019 JAG Executive Committee and Board meeting dates.

JAG Board:

December 3rd - 3:00 - Portland - Feeney Conf. Room -Cumberland County Courthouse

Executive Committee:

Nov. 14th – 3:00 – Augusta (Trial Court Conference Room - 4th floor - Capital Judicial Center)

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.