

**Justice Action Group
JAG Executive Committee**

**February 13, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.
Feeney Conf. Room, Cumberland County Courthouse, Portland**

MINUTES

Present: J. Mead, J. Rich, and Juliet Holmes-Smith

By Phone: Diana Scully and Cindy Brochu

I. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. No additions or corrections noted. Minutes approved.

II. Report from the Chair – J. Mead

- a. Inventory updates: Judge Rich said Pro Bono section needs to be updated to reflect the last meeting of the Committee on January 28, 2020.
- b. Update on reporting pro bono hours with annual attorney registration: Justice Mead reported that he hopes to bring the proposal to the court for a formal vote soon.
- c. 2019 Katahdin Counsel numbers: Database was circulated.
- d. Status of new case management system and e-filing: Justice Mead reported a "potential" target date is November of 2020 in Region V (Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties). A program was presented at the recent MSBA meeting in Portland to explain how the CMS will work. E-filing is mandatory for attorneys, but pro se parties, and parties who cannot use the CMS system can continue to file as before (i.e., paper submissions that will be scanned by the clerks).
- e. Jennifer Lechner to address February 24th Board Meeting: Justice Mead has confirmed her attendance.
- f. ATJ Day at the Legislature 2020 –March 17th. Planning on this is done by the providers. Diana pulls in the coffee/donuts and Cindy will pick it up that duty next year. [NOTE: ATJ Day was cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic].
- g. Future projects for JAG: Justice Mead reported that he is going to ATJ conference in May. [NOTE: The national ATJ Conference was cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic].

III. Vice-Chair's Report – Judge Rich

IV. Pro Bono Committee Report– *Judge Rich*: Reported that on January 28th they had a meeting and had the best attendance ever. Beth Richardson attended for VLP. Shannon Karam, who is the new PTL coordinator, and Jennifer Bailey, asylum coordinator for ILAP, attended and reported on projects at their respective organizations. The Committee may consider one or more of those as possible future projects of the pro bono committee.

a. Emeritus Counsel subcommittee: This has been reconstituted. They have met a few times. Looking at what can be done to encourage emeritus status in Maine. Suggested adding language to Maine Rules 89(c). Has a two-year cap. The thinking was to make clear that employment includes working pro bono, and restricts it to lawyers practicing pro bono. Seek to lift two-year limit for attorneys practicing strictly pro bono work. Background check would still be there and attorney needs to be in good standing. This is where the subcommittee is going.

b. Mead Fellowship: As of January 28th, there were nine applicants and as of now they have eleven. April 1st is the kickoff as well as a training. Then they're doing an introduction to pro bono. Juliet said planning is going really well. Justice Mead said he'd like to go down and join them for lunch. Judge Nivison will be there representing federal court.

c. Katahdin Counsel: The feeling of the KC committee is that the program is important to the court but feel to get the numbers up is this reporting initiative.

V. Legislative Committee Report – *Charlie Dingman* Justice Mead reported on an effort to change the requirements for law students to provide pro bono services under the auspices of the law school clinic.

VI. ACP Chair's Report – *Jamie Kilbreth*: No report given.

VII. Justice Systems Subcommittee Report: No report given.

VIII. Executive Committee Organization Updates:

- Courts: No report.
- ACP: No report.
- VLP: No report.
- MJF: No report.
- MSBA/Lawyers in Libraries: Justice Mead reported the New Lawyers' Section is still prepared to do the Lawyers in Libraries.
- MTLA: No report.

IX. Other Business: None.

X. Proposed 2020 JAG Executive Committee and Board meeting dates.

JAG Board (Feeney Conference Room - Cumberland County Courthouse):

February 24 – 3:00
June 18 – 3:00
December 21 – 3:00

Executive Committee:

April 9 – 3:00 - Portland - Feeney Conference Room [Cancelled]
September 14 - 2:00 - Augusta - SJC Conference Room
November 16 – 2:00 - Augusta - SJC Conference Room

Meeting adjourned at 4:45.