

**Justice Action Group
JAG Executive Committee
June 6, 2019 – 3:00
SJC Conf. Room, Capital Judicial Center-Augusta**

MINUTES

Present: J. Mead, Diana Scully

By Phone: Charles Dingman, William Harwood, Juliet Holmes-Smith, Eric Columer and Jamie Kilbreth

I. Welcome to Eric Columer, Esq., 2019 President of the MSBA (or designee)

Justice Mead welcomed Eric Columer to the Executive Committee.

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 21, 2019 JAG Executive Committee Meeting.

The Minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted.

III. Report from the Chair – J. Mead

a. Inventory updates

No additions or corrections to the Inventory were noted.

b. Legislative funding initiative

Charlie Dingman reported on the status of the legislative funding initiative later in the meeting (see below).

c. Report from ABA ATJ Chairs Conference

Justice Mead reported on the 2019 ABA ATJ conference which he attended (travel, hotel, and attendance expenses were fully covered by an ABA grant). Many of the sessions focused on funding initiatives for commissions. Justice Mead reported that many creative suggestions were shared; we may wish to turn our attention to this issue after the current legislative funding effort is concluded.

d. Jennifer Lechner to address JAG Board

Justice Mead has been in touch with Jennifer Lechner about addressing the JAG Board about commission funding, but Jennifer's schedule has made it difficult for her to be in Maine on the date of the June Board meeting, so it was agreed that we will plan on having her attend the December Board meeting.

IV. Vice-Chair's Report – Judge Rich

Judge Rich was unable to attend the EC meeting.

V. Pro Bono Committee Report– Judge Rich

- a. Reporting of Pro Bono Hours w/Annual Attorney Registration
- b. Pro Bono celebration/event concept
- c. Membership: Jen Archer leaving committee; Justice Cuddy passed away in May

Judge Rich was unable to attend the EC meeting, but Juliet Holmes-Smith reported that the VLP voted to honor Justice Cuddy with its Directors' Award before he passed away. The plan is to award it to him posthumously at the MSBA Summer Meeting. We understand that Carol Cuddy, his wife, will be present to accept it.

VI. Legislative Committee Report – Charlie Dingman

Charlie Dingman reported on the legislative funding initiative. Briefly, the bill is on the supplemental appropriations table and it is difficult to predict what will happen from here. The initiative has evolved from a straightforward request for an appropriation from the General Fund to an increased level of funding for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund, the benefit being that the later approach has the advantage of being an ongoing process that would not need specific legislative action every year. It seems clear that the amount of the original request—\$5M—will not be met, but we are hoping that an increase in net funding will occur in some fashion.

VII. ACP Chair's Report – Jamie Kilbreth

Jamie Kilbreth reported that the providers are greatly concerned over the draft IOLTA rule that has been posted for comment by the SJC. Justice Mead indicated that it was important that the providers' concerns and suggestions be clearly articulated in their comments submitted in response to the posting. A public hearing is very likely. Justice Mead suggested that meetings of the principal players might be worthwhile in advance of any public hearing.

VIII. Executive Committee Organization Updates:

- Courts – Justice Mead forgot to report, but is reporting here, the SJC has invited the providers to share their experience and expertise regarding the needs of the populations they serve as the court moves forward with its new case management and e-filing systems. A preliminary meeting of the group occurred on June 4; the schedule for future meetings is being created.
- ACP – No report
- MJF – Diana Scully and Bill Harwood reported that the MJF has been looking at the draft IOLTA Rule and will be submitting comments. Diana reported that an RFP for grants from specific funds has been issued.
- MSBA/Lawyers in Libraries

- MTLA – No report

IX. Other Business: Condolences were offered to the Preti Flaherty firm on the passing of partner Mike Sheehan on June 2, 2019.

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

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

June 27th – 3:00

Executive Committee:

Sept. 5th – 3:00 – Portland (Mt. Washington Conference Room)