

**Justice Action Group  
JAG Executive Committee**

**May 17, 2021  
2:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Present via Zoom: ACJ Mead, Rich, J., Deirdre Smith, Lauri Boxer-Macomber, Michelle Draeger, Victoria Powers  
Via telephone: Charlie Dingman

**I. Approval of Minutes** from March 17, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting-No additions/corrections. Minutes incorporated.

Justice Mead will add all six providers to email group. One of them will try to let us know in advance, which provider will be attending the meeting.

Justice Mead confirmed that a report from the Justice Systems Committee is sufficient to bring the Executive Committee up to speed on recommendations and other actions. No representatives of the committee need attend JAG Executive Committee meetings, but are always welcome.

**II. Report from Chair - J. Mead**

- a. Inventory updates: No updating needed right now. Inventory static for now.
- b. Pro bono criminal representation to be included in Katahdin Counsel recognition? Justice Mead hopes to review this before the new registration starts on July 1st.

**III. Vice Chair's Report and Pro Bono Committee Report - J. Rich:** Judge Rich reported that he will be retiring April 1, 2022 and he has asked the U.S. District Court to consider a new JAG representative.

The Pro Bono Committee met shortly after the Executive Committee's March 17th meeting. Beth Richardson is retiring effective July 2nd. Kathryn Reid at UNUM will be taking over for Beth at VLP. Liz Stout has agreed to step in for Beth as co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee. The next meeting is scheduled

for June. Several projects are ongoing. A working group has to look at pro bono reporting processes; Katy Rand is taking the lead on it. The Board of Overseers registration will take place in July, it is unlikely that any changes can be made at this point. [NOTE: Justice Mead has also been looking at the pro bono reporting questions in the Board registration website with a view toward capturing certain data more clearly.] They hope to work with MTLA and MSBA in hopes to get a broader dissemination as to why it's important. Judge Rich mentioned that Judge Soucy had raised strengthening ATJ in rural states as a possible project for the Committee to take on in the coming year.

**IV. ACP Chair's Report - Victoria Powers:** Deirdre spoke regarding reopening plans. They also discussed the legal aid funding at their last meeting. Victoria talked about providers' websites being linked to one another to make sure those are up to date. Justice Mead said Pine Tree has always been a great resource to the courts regarding their forms. He is hopeful that forms will have boxes that will auto redact information that needs to be redacted and he appreciates Pine Tree being willing to work with the Courts on these forms.

**V. Justice Systems Committee Report - Jaye Martin:** Jaye will be sending a report.

**VI. Executive Committee Organization Updates:**

- Courts: Justice Mead reported that a new Chief Justice is likely to be confirmed by mid-June. He has advised her that he intends to stay on as Chair to JAG.
- ACP: No report.
- VLP: No report.
- MJF: Michelle reported that the Campaign for Justice is going well. They're at \$199,000 for pledges, which is ahead of the last two years. Annual report for last year's campaign is forthcoming. Should be out in a week or so. Annual IOLTA report was submitted to Court in April. They're trying to keep the banks from reducing the rates. They are seeking nominations for the Dana award and new lawyer award. They issued six grants to organizations across Maine. Demand for grants to address racial justice and equity is high given their receipt of 42 applications in a two-week period, further confirming the need for resources to address systemic racism and inequity. They are

continuing efforts to grow the fund with more than \$470,000 raised to date.

- MSBA/Lawyers in Libraries: No report.
- MTLA: Lauri reported they have been busy with a survey to the bar in general as to what's working well with remote proceedings and what isn't. They're encouraging people to fill that out. She would like to be involved in LD 1326. MTLA is hoping to increase prejudgment interest so it will hopefully get cases to settle more quickly, which will help with the backlog.

## **VII. Legislative Committee Report - Charlie Dingman**

ATJ Day-March 31st: Charlie felt that it went very well considering they couldn't show up at the statehouse. Charlie commented that Justice Mead's remarks and video were superb. There have been some wrinkles with some of the LDs. As for LD 1326, the strategy that they are pursuing is to basically get in touch with anyone that will listen. He believes there should be a general fund appropriations for civil legal services. The fall-back position is to wait until next year and build a better campaign for it. Charlie thanked Justice Mead for reaching out to Jerry Reid in the Governor's Office. Justice Mead said the response that he got was on the positive side of neutral. It wasn't discouraging. He did not get the feeling it was a nonstarter.

**VIII: Other Business:** None reported.

## **IX. 2021 JAG Executive Committee and Board meeting dates:**

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

June 21, 2021 - 3:00 Confirmed to be in person.

Dec. 20, 2021 - 3:00

**Executive Committee meeting dates:**

Sept. 21, 2021 - 2:00 - SJC Conf. Room - Capital Judicial Center

Nov. 15, 2021 - 2:00 - SJC Conf. Room - Capital Judicial Center

**Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**