

**Justice Action Group
JAG Executive Committee**

**November 14, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.
Trial Court Conference Room - Capital Judicial Center - Augusta**

MINUTES

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

I. Approval of Minutes from the Sept. 5, 2019 JAG Executive Committee Meeting. No additions or corrections noted. Minutes approved.

II. Report from the Chair – J. Mead

- a. Inventory updates: No modifications or updates were noted.
- b. Update on reporting pro bono hours with annual attorney registration:
Justice Mead reiterated the circumstances noted in the September 5, 2019 minutes—the Board of Overseers fully developed the reporting aspect for the online registration procedure, but did not implement it for the current year reporting because the SJC had not given the final go-ahead. The proposal will be submitted to the SJC for formal review within the near future.
- c. 2019 Katahdin Counsel numbers: Justice Mead reiterated the circumstances noted in the September 5, 2019 minutes—the numbers are down, but a number of proposals to stimulate interest in the program have been submitted. *See the Pro Bono Committee Report below.*
- d. Jennifer Lechner to address December Board meeting: Jennifer has confirmed her commitment to address the December JAG Board meeting. She will be speaking about funding initiatives and resource support for ATJ commissions with a focus on how such efforts can be undertaken without interfering or competing with providers' similar efforts.
- e. Future projects for JAG: Justice Mead noted that with the completion of legislative funding “ask,” JAG should be looking for other projects for the future. Without staffing or resources, it is difficult for JAG to undertake or administer any substantial projects, but we should be looking into what we can do.
- f. Justice Mead noted Diana Scully's intended retirement in 2020 and remarked that Diana has made substantial contributions to the ATJ cause including serving as an interim Executive Coordinator for our group and authoring a published history of the Justice Action Group that will certainly serve as the definitive historical reference for years to come. Everyone in attendance acknowledged Diana's contributions and thanked her for her service to the cause.

III/IV. Vice-Chair's Report & Pro Bono Committee Report– Judge Rich:

- a Reporting of Pro Bono Hours: Judge Rich reported that the committee had received the suggestions for increasing Katahdin Counsel participation and shared the committee's responses and additional suggestions.
ACTION PLAN: The suggestions and the committee's responses will be shared at the upcoming JAG Board meeting. Comments and further suggestions from the Board will be welcomed. Assuming there is consensus, the suggestions will be passed on to the SJC for further action.
- b. Emeritus Counsel: The Emeritus Counsel subcommittee continues to study the emeritus counsel concept, including the 21 states that have some form of program to encourage emeritus counsel. The subcommittee will meet again on January 22, 2020, in order to develop specific proposals in the near future for the Pro Bono Committee, and JAG's, consideration.
- c. Committee membership: Katy Rand has joined the committee. She will join the Emeritus Counsel subcommittee.
- d. The Pro Bono Committee will next meet on January 28, 2020, at 8 a.m.

V. Legislative Committee Report – Charlie Dingman: Charlie reported that he is unaware of any proposed legislation of particular interest to the group. He also noted that a future legislative funding initiative is certainly a possibility. In the meantime, we should clarify the role that judges can play in supporting legislative appropriations for civil legal services organizations and efforts.

VI. ACP Chair's Report – Jamie Kilbreth: Jamie reported that the providers continue to communicate and meet on a regular basis. The providers have expressed concern, as Charlie Dingman also noted, that it is imperative to the JAG mission that judges be able to advocate for funding. Justice Mead confirmed this concern and advised that some efforts will be underway to provide clarity on this point and avoid future impediments on judges' advocacy.

VII. Executive Committee Organization Updates:

- Courts: Justice Mead reported that the development of the new case management system and e-filing capacity is well underway. A group of representatives from the ATJ community and the judicial branch are meeting regularly to share expertise regarding the unique needs of the underserved populations that the providers serve.
- MJF: Diana reported the MJF is in a period of review and transition. A retreat was held recently that Diana described as worthwhile and productive. She and Bill Harwood indicated that the MJF will keep the court advised of progress and developments. Diana reported that a tea reception at the Blaine House for IOLTA participating banks, which the Governor attended, was very successful.
- MSBA/Lawyers in Libraries: Eric Columer reported that the MSBA is willing to utilize its Journal, bulletin board, and regular mailings to assist in getting the word out on Katahdin Counsel.
- MTLA: No report.

VIII. Other Business: None reported.

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

JAG Board:

December 3rd at 3:00 p.m., Cumberland County Courthouse, Feeney Conference Room, Portland.

Executive Committee:

Dates for 2020 to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3p.m.