

**Veterans and Military Law Section Executive Committee Conference Call**  
**April 14, 2016 at 3pm ET**

In Attendance—Bob DeSousa, Frank McGovern, Alan Goldsmith, Chase Johnson, Maria Conticelli

Chair's Report—Bob DeSousa reported that the section had an excellent turnout at the recent FBA midyear meeting in Washington, DC. Further, the membership drive is going well—VMLS now has 172 members compared with 142 in October of last year, which constitutes excellent progress towards the goal of 300 members. In the coming months, he will encourage section members to attend this year's annual meeting in Cleveland since the events are significantly subsidized and therefore constitute something of a bargain for FBA members.

Vice Chair's Report—Frank McGovern reported on the event now scheduled for June 3 at a historic armory located in downtown Philadelphia, PA. There will be a seminar/CLE from 4-5 pm and a reception from 5-6 pm. Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy, a former judge advocate, will attend the event. Additionally, VMLS is working with the Richmond/Roanoke Chapter on an event in Charlottesville, VA at the Army JAG School which is now tentatively scheduled for the second week of September. This event will target law students and JAG officers. Chase Johnson offered to assist with this event. Bob DeSousa asked Maria Conticelli to ensure that an FBA banner is available for this and other similar events.

Secretary's Report—Alan Goldsmith reported that the long-awaited panel discussion on the Military Justice Reform Act took place late last month. The event was interesting and informative, and the article in the recent newsletter did a good job of summarizing the event.

Treasurer's Report—Chase Johnson reported that as of the date of the February report, VMLS had approximately \$6,100 in its account. This figure does not reflect expenditures of \$500 for the upcoming event in Baltimore, and \$300 for Bob DeSousa's travel to Washington for the midyear meeting. The March report will be forwarded to the committee when it is released next week. Bob DeSousa noted that the FBA reimburses some of his travel expenses due to his status as a past national president.

New Business—Bob DeSousa noted the need to reach out to law students and active duty service members as prospective members of FBA and VMLS. He raised the possibility of creating a committee to address the best way to reach out to law students, and noted that the FBA is an excellent organization for JAGs to join since all of them will eventually separate or retire and membership provides contacts that will be extremely helpful upon returning to the civilian legal community. Additionally, VMLS has been notified by a reserve JAG working at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims that his JAG service constitutes the practice of law, which is considered an ethical violation by the Judicial Conference. Accordingly, the CAVC Clerk of Court has notified the individual that he has 90 days to either resign his commission or terminate his employment with CAVC. Bob DeSousa has notified the appropriate authorities at Army JAG and Bruce Moyer of FBA concerning the attorney's plight, and he is continuing to monitor the situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

