

**Veterans and Military Law Section (VMLS) Executive Committee Conference Call  
December 8, 2016 at 3 pm ET**

In Attendance—Bob DeSousa, Jim Richardson, Alan Goldsmith, Chase Johnson, Dawn Kennedy, Josh Albertson

Chair's Report— Bob Sousa welcomed Dawn Kennedy to the Board. She is the new Vice Chair of the Communications Committee. She is especially well qualified for this post since she has a background in putting out newsletters. She will be involved in soliciting articles for the next newsletters. We want to go to three newsletters instead of two. Bob also said he had spoken with the new chairs of the CLE Committee and advised that the most pressing matter for that committee is the upcoming CLE event in Puerto Rico.

Treasurer's Report—Chase Johnson reported that we gained eight new members in October and had \$4,635 in the treasury. Bob DeSousa pointed out that we have \$1500 budgeted for the Puerto Rico CLE and usually contribute \$500 for the national meeting in the fall. Alan Goldsmith pointed out that the Section normally contributes \$500 to the annual Jobs for JAGs seminar.

Membership Committee—No report

Vice-Chair—Jim Richardson reported that Brian Magee has taken over as CLE Chair. Jim is working with him on Puerto Rico CLE event, now scheduled for 27-28 April 2017. The Puerto Rico Chapter will ask for a grant from the FBA Foundation to defray the costs of the event. Jim is looking to provide scholarships to military attorneys and law students who can serve as counselors for veterans. Jim also reported on a proposal to limit a veteran's right to supplement the records at VA proceedings.

Secretary—Alan Goldsmith reported that the Judge Advocates Association is still planning the next Jobs for JAGs seminar for early 2017, most likely in March.

Communications Committee—Walter Kroptavich submitted the following written report:

We are in transition for the leadership of the Communications section. I am the new Chair and Dawn Kennedy is the new Vice Chair. We are looking at publishing three newsletters this year. The first one is planned for February 2017.

Military Justice Committee—Pete Masterton submitted the following written report:

Adam Hill continues to work on a newsletter article on the new military justice Executive Order issued on 16 September. I am looking for an author to work on an article on the military's new transgender policy - anyone who is interested should reply by next Friday (16 December).

CLE Committee—Hillary Wandler submitted the following written report:

The PR Chapter is leading this event with VMLS's partnership. VMLS is providing planning assistance, as well as leg-work on recommending and obtaining speakers. VMLS has also committed to providing some financial assistance and marketing. Mariano is our PR POC, and he has been communicating with the Caribe Hilton regarding rooms and

conference facilities. The Caribe would provide a block of rooms for attendees (estimated block of 15 rooms secured at this time), as well as a conference room for the event itself. The dates are blocked for April 27-29, which avoids the FBA's Capitol Hill Day and Leadership Training on April 20-22. Jim spoke with Dave Myers about presenting a good portion of the CLE, and he is interested. Jim and Dave recommended that the PR Chapter advertise the event to Veterans Service Officers in PR as well as organizations like the American Legion and VFW. (Another idea on the table is supporting a clinic connected with the event, but it is not yet clear whether that clinic would be an intake clinic in conjunction with the actual event, or a long-term veterans legal services clinic in a local law school kicked off at the same time as the event. Jim could clarify this more.) Any help from the greater section regarding speakers, topics, and marketing would be greatly appreciated, of course!

### **Program Ideas:**

- Keynote: JAG Officer (Army) / VA Official / BVA Official
- VA Benefits 101: Dave Meyers
- Family Law for Veterans: TBD
- Medical Advocacy in the VHA: TBD
- Military 101 for the General Practitioner: TBD
- Discharge Review: Jim Richardson
- Military Justice for Civilian Attorneys: Jim Richardson

Legislative and Regulatory Committee—No report

Old Business--None

New Business—Josh Albertson reported that registration for midyear FBA meeting is now open. Additionally, the organizers of the moot court competition sponsored in conjunction with the meeting are looking for FBA members to serve as judges. Any interested member of the Section should so advise either Josh or Maria Conticelli.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.