

Veterans and Military Law Section Executive Committee Conference Call

June 9, 2016 at 3pm ET

In Attendance—Bob DeSousa, Frank McGovern, Alan Goldsmith, Chase Johnson, Jim Richardson, Carol Scott,

Chair's Report—Bob DeSousa pointed out that it was time to elect section officers, and recommended that the current slate be submitted to the members. With no objection, the proposal was approved. Turning to budget issues, it was noted that sections traditionally reimburse the chair to attend both the annual and midyear conventions, at about the same rate as chapter officers. Bob DeSousa recommended that we offer all executive committee members a one-day (\$150) stipend to encourage attendance at these events. After some discussion, Frank McGovern moved to approve this proposal and Chase Johnson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Bob DeSousa then proposed that the Section sponsor a veterans conference in conjunction with Puerto Rico chapter, with details to be ironed out on the date and a budgeted amount. Jim Richardson reported attendance of 110 at a similar event in Baltimore last week. Carol Scott said the Veterans Consortium might be willing to contribute financially. Jim Richardson moved to budget \$1,000 as seed money for such a convention. Alan Goldsmith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Immediate Past Chair's Report —Carol Scott reported on the possibility of an Indian/Veterans Law conference in Oklahoma during the September/October 2017 time frame. She also said that she might go to the FBA Foundation for a grant. She reported a lack of interest in veterans affairs in the Indian Law Section and said that such a conference was needed to address needs of Indian veterans, especially those on the reservations.

Vice Chair's Report —Bob DeSousa asked Frank McGovern to check with membership chair Ray Bily on various matters pertaining to membership. Frank McGovern reported no new information on rescheduling the event in Philadelphia with the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Bob DeSousa asked him to continue to coordinate this event. Bob DeSousa asked whether the Philadelphia chapter has done anything on an event to be held in conjunction with the FBA Board of Directors meeting in July of 2017, and asked Frank McGovern and Jim Richardson to look into the possibility of working with the chapter on such an event. Frank McGovern said he was still looking into the possibility of holding a CLE event in Charlottesville in conjunction with the Army JAG School.

Secretary's Report—Alan Goldsmith pointed out that when a vacancy exists on the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the Department of Defense asks the Judge Advocates Association to recommend a nominee. Should the Section also be asked to submit a recommendation for a nominee? Jim Richardson said the FBA has a policy of not recommending individuals for judgeships. However, it was agreed that the Section might be able to influence the selection process in other ways and Bob DeSousa said he would ask Maria Conticelli what we can do along these lines and still comply with FBA guidelines.

Treasurer's Report—No report.

Ex Officio Report—Jim Richardson again reported that the event in Baltimore went well. He is supposed to get a list of attendees, and upon receipt he will forward the list to the Membership Committee for action.

New Business—None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.