

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNOR COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
13901 GLEN MILL ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
5:30 P.M.**

President Thomas C. Cardaro called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Board of Governors meeting held on February 16, 2010 were approved as presented.

II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. President Thomas C. Cardaro reported on a letter he sent on behalf of the Maryland State Bar Association to the Honorable Martin J. O'Malley, Senator Ulysses Currie, and Delegate Norman H. Conway opposing the proposed removal of funds from a special fund held by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. President Cardaro also reported that John Orrick, Chair of the Business Law Section, had previously written to Senator Currie and Delegate Conway in opposition to the proposed fund transfer.

2. President Cardaro next reported on a suggestion by Rob Hendrickson submitted on behalf of the Senior Lawyers Section regarding the creation of a clearinghouse for potential members of governmental bodies. President Cardaro advised Mr. Hendrickson that at present there did not appear to be a significant demand for such a clearinghouse.

3. President Cardaro reported on the opposition to mandatory continuing legal education submitted to the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia by Wicomico County Bar Association President, Ernest "Skip" Cornbrooks IV on behalf of the Wicomico County Bar Association. President Cardaro has requested all local Bar Associations to notify the Maryland State Bar Association of any positions they take on this issue.

4. President Cardaro issued a request for volunteers to the Board of Governors to judge the Best Section Projects awards to be announced at the MSBA Annual Meeting in June 2010. Jason Hessler, Rebecca Strandberg, and Deborah Dopkin volunteered to serve as judges.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Executive Director Paul V. Carlin presented the Membership Report, indicating that at present the Maryland State Bar Association has 23,015 members. Mr. Carlin noted that although that number represented a drop from previous reports, it resulted from a significant recent follow up effort by the Bar staff with regard to non-renewing members. In addition, a portion of that decline was comprised of law students whose law school had previously paid for their prior year's dues and were not paying for their second year of dues. Mr. Carlin reported that all members of the Board of Governors will be provided a copy of the list of members who have been dropped and are encouraged to contact attorneys on the list with whom they are familiar to find out the reasons for resignation and perhaps persuade them to reconsider. It was suggested that the list also be sent to the Membership Committee for its input.

2. Mr. Carlin reported that two requests for honorary membership had been received from senior members of the MSBA. A motion to approve the requests for honorary membership was approved by the Board of Governors.

3. Mr. Carlin reported on nomination petitions for seats on the Board of Governors. Seven petitions were received for six vacant spots in the Sixth District (Montgomery County) and therefore a contested election will be held in that District.

4. Mr. Carlin reported on a bylaw amendment recommended by the Membership Committee with regard to paralegal members of the Maryland State Bar Association. By motion, the proposed bylaw amendment was approved by the Board of Governors and therefore will be submitted to the Membership Committee for a vote at the Annual Meeting in June 2010.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Henry E. Dugan, Jr. commented on the successful mid-year meeting held in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Secretary Dugan noted President-elect Murphy's able substitution for President Cardaro who was unable to attend due to the unfortunate death of his mother.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer John P. Kudel welcomed all of the Governors to his home jurisdiction of Rockville. Treasurer Kudel first reminded the Board of Governors, with confirmation from Executive Director Carlin, that the \$125 annual dues for members of the Maryland State Bar Association were the lowest for any volunteer Bar Association in the country and that they have remained at that low level since 1990. He next reported that annual budgeted income exceeded year-to-date collections by approximately \$59,000 and that shortfall would, in all likelihood, not be made up in the current fiscal year. Treasurer Kudel also reported on budgeted but not yet expended funds of approximately \$1,435,000.

E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

President-Elect Thomas D. Murphy reported on his increasing activities leading up to him assuming the position of President of the MSBA. Mr. Murphy also offered his condolences to President Cardaro on the death of his mother. Mr. Murphy reported that he is still investigating sites for next year's Mid-Year Meeting.

III. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Richard A. Montgomery, III, Director of Legislative and Government Relations, reported on two bills, HB 703 and HB 1457. Director Montgomery reported that HB 703, which involves a surcharge on attorneys to fund a Maryland lawyer loan assistance repayment program, was very unlikely to move forward in this legislative session and therefore the Committee on Laws recommended that it be monitored. Mr. Montgomery also reported that House Bill 1457, which created civil immunity for broadcasters issuing AMBER alerts, although apparently well-founded, was contrary to the MSBA Legislative Program position opposing civil immunity legislation. However, given the bill's laudable purpose, Mr. Montgomery recommended that the MSBA monitor HB 1457. Upon motion, the Board of Governors approved the recommendations of Director Montgomery.

2. Director Montgomery also reported on the status of various other pending bills, none of which required action by the Board of Governors.

IV. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. The report of the CLE Task Force was presented by Chris West. All of the Task Force activities, including the winding down of MICPEL, assessment of MICPEL's intellectual property rights, organization of delivery of imminent CLE programs, and planning of the MSBA's future CLE role were reported. President Cardaro and the full Board of Governors thanked the members of the task-force, including Marshall Paul, Thomas Dolina, Stanford Gann, Elizabeth Morris, Rebecca Strandberg, and Christopher West for their extraordinary contributions to the MSBA in this regard. Executive Director Paul Carlin also reported on his recent hiring of two former MICPEL employees, investigation of the MICPEL office lease, preparation of a Faculty Guide, a New Author Agreement, and Consideration of Royalty Agreements with Westlaw and Lexis, not to mention a successful presentation of a consumer bankruptcy program. The Executive Director proposed a budget amendment regarding ongoing continuing legal education activities for the fiscal year, and upon motion that budget amendment was approved.

V. REPORTS OF SECTIONS

Jason Hessler, Chair of the Young Lawyers Section, reported on the upcoming annual YLS fundraiser, being held this year at the Havana Club in Baltimore. Mr. Hessler encouraged all members of the Board to attend and support the event.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & GENERAL ORDERS - NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

President Cardaro introduced a new matter, namely, celebration of Executive Director Paul Carlin's 25th anniversary as Executive Director of the Maryland State Bar Association. President Cardaro reported on the leadership displayed by Executive Director Carlin growing the organization from less than 10,000 members to more than 23,000 members. President Cardaro also reported on Executive Director Carlin's national reputation for excellence among Bar Association leaders. Comments from prior Bar Presidents, including James Thompson, Paul Bekman, James Nolan, Ed Gilliss, Alison Asti, and Herb Garten, were read. Pictures of Mr. Carlin from his early years were enjoyed by all. Mr. Carlin then offered comments of gratitude and satisfaction, which were very well received.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 5:30 p.m., at the Riverfront-Donaldson Mansion in Port Deposit, Maryland.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Baxter
Assistant to the Secretary