

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010
MARYLAND BAR CENTER
520 WEST FAYETTE STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
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 January 19, 2010 were approved as presented.

II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. President Thomas C. Cardaro reported on the ABA midyear meeting which he attended along with Past President Kathy Howard; Paul Carlin, Executive Director, and Tom Murphy, President Elect. President Cardaro reported that the ABA is experiencing declining membership and it has done some significant research to determine what groups of lawyers are not joining the ABA. As a result of that research the ABA decided to lower dues in categories of lawyers where it has poor penetration. President Cardaro also reported that the ABA is studying various organizations currently offering ratings on lawyers to the public. In addition, President Cardaro reported on the activities of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, including its concerns about funding for court systems and alternative measures being employed to fund legal services organizations.

2. President Cardaro next reported on the annual dinner with the Maryland Chief Judges and Law School Deans which he recently attended with Past President Kathy Howard, President Elect Tom Murphy and Executive Director, Paul Carlin. In attendance were Chief Judge Robert Bell, Associate Judge Arrie Davis, representing the Court of Special Appeals, Circuit Court Judge Diane Leisure, and Chief District Court Judge Ben Clyburn, as well as the Deans of the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore Law Schools. A variety of issues were discussed including the Courts' appreciation of the Bar's participation in the ongoing pro bono mortgage foreclosure project, the open Bar Counsel position, the Court's legislative agenda for the upcoming session, mandatory continuing legal education, and MICPEL.

3. President Cardaro reported on the request of the Business Law Section for the MSBA to write to Governor O'Malley opposing the transfer of certain funds from the State Department of Assessments & Taxation over to the General Fund. Upon motion the Board authorized President Cardaro to send such a letter to Governor O'Malley.

4. President Cardaro next reported on the resolution submitted by Judge William Carr regarding the Health Claims Alternative Dispute Resolution Office. A full discussion ensued and it was decided that Judge Carr would redraft his resolution to address some of the issues raised by the members of the Board of Governors.

III. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Director Paul V. Carlin noted the presence of nearly all of the members of the Board of Governors despite the inclement weather which included over four feet of snow in the past several weeks.

2. Mr. Carlin presented the membership report indicating that at present the Maryland State Bar Association had 24,396 members.

3. Mr. Carlin reported that the Professionalism Committee is holding a series of focus groups in order to assess and improve the Professionalism Committee Program. Since its inception over 27,000 lawyers have gone through the course.

IV. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Henry E. Dugan, Jr. reported that there was an Executive Committee meeting held on February 2, 2010 and that the matters presented at the Board of Governors meeting were substantially the same as the matters considered by the Executive Committee.

V. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

John P. Kudel reported that at present the MSBA had collected all but \$68,000.00 of budgeted income and that it had budgeted but not yet expended funds of \$1,541,000.00.

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESENT-ELECT

President-Elect Thomas D. Murphy commented on his travel prowess in comparison to that of other officers of the Association who attended the mid-year ABA meeting with him.

VII. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Richard A. Montgomery, III, Director of Legislative and Government Relations, reported on five bills including, HB-254, SB-358, SB-386, SB-411, and SJ-4. Mr. Montgomery presented the recommendations of the Committee on Laws to oppose the first four bills, which the Board of Governors approved.

VIII. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Marshall Paul, de facto Chair of the MICPEL Task Force, reported on the Task Force's ongoing assessment of the dissolution of MICPEL and its impact on the MSBA. The recommendation of the Task Force was for the MSBA to assume a role in providing continuing legal education to its members, to preserve the more significant MICPEL publications, and to attempt to use the MSBA's new found role in this regard as an opportunity to grow the MSBA and increase its visibility. That recommendation, upon motion, was approved unanimously by the Board of Governors. Additionally Executive Director Paul Carlin was authorized to hire up to four employees to assist in this new activity. In addition, upon motion, the Board of Governors approved the dissolution of the agreement between the MSBA, the University of Maryland Law School, and the University of Baltimore Law School, which created MICPEL, when approved by the Board Taskforce.

IX. REPORTS OF SECTIONS -- NONE

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & GENERAL ORDERS -- NONE

XI. NEW BUSINESS -- NONE

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on March 23, 2010 at the Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, Maryland. The Board was reminded that spouses and guests are invited to attend this meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Baxter
Assistant to the Secretary