

DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES  
SECTION COUNCIL  
Minutes  
January 11, 2010

**Participants:** Suzanne Sangree, Chair; Yoanna Moisesides, Vice-Chair; Marianne Hendricks, Secretary/Treasurer; Tracy Brown; J. Allan Cohen; Ed Fee; Stephanie Joseph; Lauren Kallins; Ulani Prater-Gulstone; Pooja Regmi; Harriet Robinson; Bonnie Sullivan; Gwen Tromley

I. Legal Services Funding Crisis

- A. Suzanne Sangree:
  - i. The Section Council adopted a resolution regarding an increase in filing fees to benefit MLSC.
  - ii. Family and Juvenile Law, Litigation and Elder Law Sections joined in supporting our resolution.
  - iii. Suzanne will attend the Committee on Laws meeting on January 19, 2010 (with Vernon Boozer and Susan Erlichman); the Committee is supposed to consult with the affected Sections (per the MSBA by-laws) in deciding whether to take a position on proposed legislation. BOG gives them a lot of deference.
- B. Bonnie: President Tom Cardaro essentially stated in the Maryland Bar Journal (and in an e-bulletin) that he opposes the proposed attorney registration and increased filing fees; if not directly opposed then he at least framed the issue in a negative light.
- C. Harriet passed out the proposed legislation that amends the current MLSC surcharge to reflect an increase. It would allow the Circuit Court Administrator to assess a surcharge of up to \$70 (now \$25) and the Chief Judge of the District Court to assess a surcharge of up to \$20 in civil cases other than summary ejection (now \$10). Sen. Brian Frosh and Del. Kathleen Dumais are introducing the bills.
- D. Ed Fee suggested that we submit written testimony and plan to attend the hearings. He volunteered to work on the testimony. He will circulate a draft to the Section Council by the January 25.
- E. Harriet Robinson will send out MLSC talking points and a chart with talking points that Legal Aid has distributed so that we can address potential criticisms of the proposed legislation.
- F. The Legislative Committee will keep its eyes on the progress of the legislation in Annapolis (Ed Fee, chair; Stephanie Joseph, Nevett Steele).

II. Guardianship Handbook

- A. Virginia Rawthorne got in touch with Guardian Angels Foundation, an organization in New Mexico who publishes a similar handbook. They anticipate the Update being done in February. Suzanne invited Virginia and the law student working on the Update to our next meeting in March.
- B. Yoanna and Harriet submitted the publication costs to the MD Bar Foundation for a grant (in December).

III. Budget: Marianne Hendricks submitted the request for 2010-2011.

IV. People's Law Library: Harriet sent out an update recently; there are changes to the layout, the webmasters are working on regular updates and making it so that people can upload their

own content and changes. Steve Anderson, of the State Law Library is the new host and it's going well.

V. Outreach Program:

- A. Suzanne spoke with Ken McFadjen and he said that Kathleen Skullney is welcome to attend Foreclosure Subcommittee (Real Estate Section Council) meetings. Diane Cippolone is currently attending meetings.
- B. Suzanne still has to check with Alexander Gordon re: a legal services representative for the Bankruptcy Section Council.
- C. There is still no word on whether Laure Ruth of Women's Law Center has been invited to join the Family Law Section Council.

VI. Next meeting: Wednesday, Mach 24, 2010 at 6 pm at Dogwood Gourmet in Hampden.