The Maine State Bar Association promotes the honor, dignity and professionalism of lawyers, advances the knowledge, skills and interests of its members, and supports the public interest in a fair and effective system of justice.

Antitrust Statement
The Maine State Bar Association (MSBA) is organized to promote the honor, dignity and professionalism of lawyers; advance the knowledge, skills and interests of its members; and support the public interest in a fair and effective system of justice. The MSBA, its officers, Board of Governors and employees shall not, and do not, play any role in the competitive decisions of its members or their employees, or in any way restrict competition in any aspect of the legal profession. By adoption of this statement of policy, the MSBA makes clear its unequivocal support for the fair and effective policy of competition served by the antitrust laws and its uncompromising intent to comply strictly in all respects with those laws.

Members Absent: Cloutier, McDonald, McNally, Neumann, and Willey.
Staff Present: Armstrong and Seavey.

Item 1. Call to order and welcome.

President Bishop called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

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Strategic Goal 1: Increase and expand access to legal information and legal services for all Maine residents.

• Objective 1.1: Convene a statewide working group to spotlight barriers to justice in rural areas and facilitate recommended steps to a more comprehensive approach to legal service delivery in Maine.

• Objective 1.2: Enact a rural practice initiative around: 1) the development of resources to help new lawyers starting and retiring lawyers exiting rural practice; 2) the use of message boards to facilitate conversations between retiring and incoming lawyers; and, 3) exploring legislative avenues for either direct aid or loan forgiveness.
Item 2. **ad hoc Rural Practice Committee report: Chair McNally.**

A. In Chair McNally’s absence, ED Armstrong reported that the Committee met on March 15. Governor Willey joined the meeting to discuss working with the Civics Education Committee on future events such as Law Day.

B. Next meeting: April 29 at 11:00 a.m. (Zoom).

Item 3. **ad hoc Civil Practice Committee report: Interim Chair Echeverria.**

A. President Bishop, Governors Echeverria and Faunce, and MTLA President Lauri Boxer-Macomber met with Chief Justice Stanfill and Justice Mullen to discuss the short- and long-term concerns arising from the pandemic for civil trials. They also reviewed her draft SJC order to create the Civil Process Stakeholders. President Bishop predicts a status report for the May meeting.

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**Strategic Goal 2:** Promote diversity, inclusivity and equal opportunity in the Maine legal profession.

- Objective 2.1: 1) Publish results of diversity survey; 2) issue annual diversity report; 3) create mentoring program with law school to build support systems for minority lawyers; 4) promote existing programs which incentivize BIPOC students to go to law school; 5) develop and offer CLEs on diversity, equality and inclusion throughout state; 6) recruit BIPOC lawyers for leadership academy; and 7) create new BOG seat for BIPOC Lawyers Section.

Item 4. **Diversity Committee report: Interim Chair Bishop.**

A. President Bishop and ED Armstrong met on April 4 to discuss next steps for bringing the reconstituted Committee together. We’ve sent emails to former Committee members, as well as to the chairs of the BIPOC Lawyers and Women’s Law Sections, and are setting up a meeting for late April or early May. An update will be provided at the May Board meeting.

Item 5. **Relevant MSBA CLE programs.**

A. **Identifying & Combatting Gender Bias: Examining the Roles of Women Attorneys in Movies & TV:** April 29, 2022 at 1:00-2:00 p.m. (webinar simulive replay) with Attorney Philip Bogdanoff. Every attorney regardless of gender must have an equal opportunity to advance their career in the legal profession. However, the legal profession has a history of gender bias against women and recent surveys and statistical studies indicate there is still gender bias in our profession. In this presentation, attorneys will learn to identify both implicit and explicit gender bias in the legal profession by reviewing how Hollywood depicts women attorneys on television and at the movies. To learn to recognize implicit gender bias, we will review film clips of award-winning movies selected by lawyers in two "best lawyer movie" polls conducted by the American Bar Association in 2008 and 2018. The presentation will also offer attendees suggestions to recognize and combat implicit biases.

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Strategic Goal 3: Expand MSBA membership through initiatives designed to enhance member relevance.

- Objective 3.1: Expand on the success of pandemic-related innovations like Bar Talk to enhance the Bar’s role as an educator and information provider.
- Objective 3.2: Expand member engagement through a reinvigorated, reimagined section architecture, complete with online communities, section growth and engaged leadership.

Item 6. Membership.

A. Reviewed membership, new member, and resignation reports: Deputy ED Seavey reported current total member count is 2,804. There were 32 new members since the March 8 meeting, of which seven were new members (dues-paying), 22 were reinstatements (also dues-paying), and three were students (non-dues-paying). There were no resignations during this same period.

Item 7. Membership Committee report: Chair Cutliffe.

A. Next meeting: April 25 at 1:00 p.m. (Zoom). Chair Cutliffe reported the Committee will have a recommendation for Life Member status and procedures at the May Board meeting.
B. President Bishop reported that MSBA met with Decisis (legal research company) on April 5 to provide constructive feedback based on testing of its legal research product by MSBA members. On April 26, ED Armstrong will meet with the Ohio Bar Association, who switched to Decisis from Casemaker within the past year. Decisis offered its product to the MSBA for an annual fee of $58,000. Further discussion about possibly switching from Fastcase to Decisis when our Fastcase contract expires in September will be included as an agenda item for the May Board meeting.

Item 8. Bar Talk.

B. Open dates: May 11, June 15, September 14, October 12, November 16, and December 14.
C. Tentative speakers scheduled (dates TBD): Dr. Nirav Shah and AG Aaron Frey.

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General Business of the Board of Governors.

Item 9. Consent Items 9A-9B: a single motion was made and voted in the affirmative to accept Items 9A-9B.

Note: Supporting documents available at MEBarConnect.

A. Approved minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting.
B. Set date of next Board of Governors meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Item 10. **Treasurer’s report.**

*Note: Financial documents available at MEBarConnect.*

A. Treasurer Haddow reported we are on track through January 31, 2022, we have collected 66.56 percent of budgeted income of $1,475,971 or (66.31 percent last year) and have spent 29.54 percent of the budgeted expenses of $1,475,971 or (27.52 percent last year). **A motion was made, duly seconded, and voted in the affirmative to accept the January 2022 financial statement.**

B. Treasurer Haddow reported that membership dues collected as of February 28, 2022 is $572,388.75 of the $580,000.00 budgeted, or 98.7 percent. This compares to a collection rate of 97.1 percent at this same time last year.

Item 11. **Board of Governors reports.**

A. President-Elect Stitham.
   1. 2023 Summer Bar Conference (SBC) location still TBD.
   2. Leadership Academy is back for 2023, we’ll work it into the budget process in July.
   3. Treasurer Haddow is stepping down as Treasurer at the end of 2022. President-Elect Stitham will appoint Governor Cutliffe as the new Treasurer for 2023. The Board will vote on that appointment closer to the end of 2022.
   4. Piscataquis County Bar Association reached out asking to schedule a luncheon with President-Elect Stitham, ED Armstrong and local attorneys and judges to discuss the future of the MSBA and ways for the Associations to partner. President-Elect Stitham may try to meet with other local bar associations as well and will keep the Board informed about these events.

B. Vice President Dunitz.
   1. Reported that he, as a representative of the JAG Pro Bono Committee, participated in a meeting with VLP, PTLA and MSBA to discuss the presentation of awards at the 2022 Summer Bar Conference.
   2. UMaine School of Law is working on a plan for a rural practice summit to be held in Penobscot County. More information to follow.

C. Immediate Past President McDonald: no report.

D. Other Governors: no reports.

Item 12. **Executive Director’s report.**

A. NEBA Board of Directors Meeting: May 27 (Zoom). Current NEBA Directors from Maine are Jonathan Dunitz, Jim Haddow, and Derek Jones.

B. John Ballou Award: ED Armstrong asked if the Board wanted her to request nominations for the Ballou Award this year, to be presented at the 2022 SBC. There was no award presented in 2021. The Board agreed to send out a request for nominations with a May 6 deadline, so that a recipient could be chosen at the May Board meeting should there be a deserving candidate.

*Note: Award criteria and list of previous awardees available at MEBarConnect.*
C. Well-Being Week in Law is May 3-7, 2022. The MSBA will promote the event through email blasts, during the April Bar Talk, and on its website. More information is available at: www.lawyerwellbeing.net.

Item 13. President’s report.

A. Summer Bar Conference on June 15-17 at Harborside Hotel in Bar Harbor.
   1. BOG meeting currently scheduled for June 15 at 1:00 p.m. There will be a call-in option for those not attending the SBC.
   2. The SBC closes with the Caroline Duby Glassman Award Luncheon, where there will be two awards presented this year: Dierdre Smith for 2020 and Aria Eee for 2022.

B. Board of Governors Strategic Planning Retreat: September 12-13 at Rangeley Inn in Rangeley. President Bishop requested team building activity ideas from the Board.

C. Attended ABA Bar Leader’s Institute (BLI) in Chicago in March with ED Armstrong. It was a fantastic event with seminars devoted to being a bar president/leader.

Item 14. Committee reports.

A. Bylaws & Policies: Chair Saufley reported that the Committee will begin its review of old policies now that the Bylaws revisions have been approved. ED Armstrong will assist in setting up a meeting.

B. Civics Education: Chair Willey: no report.
   1. 2022 Law Day Contest.
   2. Written report available at MEBarConnect.

C. Continuing Legal Education: Liaison Stitham reported the next meeting is May 10. The Committee is focusing on in-person content.
   1. Minutes: CLE Committee Meeting on February 8.
   2. Minutes: CLE Committee Meeting on March 8.

D. Investment Committee: Liaison Haddow.
   1. Reported that the Committee met with our Camden National Wealth financial advisors. The advisors were provided the new Investment Policy approved by the Board at the March meeting. They are working to transition our investments to be in compliance with the new policy but recommend that we conduct some of the changes only once some of the investments mature. Otherwise, there would be adverse financial impacts on moving the funds too soon. Board members agreed that there needs to be a transition period based on the maturing of certain investments so not to adversely affect the MSBA funds.
   2. President Bishop and Treasurer Haddow are developing a policy on future management of surplus funds in the operating account and plan to have a draft for the May Board meeting. However, the Board already approved that ED Armstrong, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, move current surplus funds in excess of $100,000 into the investment accounts. They are working with the Investment Committee to move this forward.

E. Finance: Chair Stitham: no report.
   1. Section budget requests will be sent to chairs in May.
   2. Meeting: July 28 at Bar HQ, time TBD.
F. Judicial Evaluation: Chair Cramer reported that President Bishop, Governor Okun, and Governor Dunitz recently provided MSBA testimony in support of Judges Goranites and R. French and Justices Douglas, Lawrence, Mallonee, and Murphy.
   1. 2022 evaluations are complete. ED Armstrong is working on the reports for the Committee’s review and renomination recommendations.

G. Legislative Review & Response: Chair Okun reported that we are closely following LD 1326: An Act to Provide Funding for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund. MCILS funding was also a big priority for the MSBA this year and we are still waiting to hear if it will be funded by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

   1. Written report available at MEBarConnect.

I. Medical Legal Committee: Chair Faunce: no report.

**Item 15. Section reports.**

A. Animal Law Section meetings.
   1. April 15 at 12:00 p.m. (Zoom).
   2. May 20 at 12:00 p.m. (Zoom).

B. BIPOC Lawyers Section: Governor Echeverria: no report.

C. Family Law Section meetings.
   1. April 28 at 12:00 p.m. (Zoom).
   2. May 26 at 12:00 p.m. (Zoom).

D. New Lawyers Section: Governor Johnston reported the Section is focusing on member engagement, specifically in-person programming and social networking events. The Section is planning a pro bono fair for early fall and hopes to partner with other MSBA sections for this event. The Governing Council has vacancies—MSBA staff will send out an email to all NLS members about these leadership opportunities. President Bishop plans to attend the April 20 Section meeting.

E. Real Estate & Title Section.
   1. Meeting: May 11 at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Augusta Civic Center.

F. Women’s Law Section: Governor Neumann: no report.

G. Governor section liaison reports: no reports.

**Item 16. Old business.**

There was no old business to come before the Board.

**Item 17. New business.**

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela P. Armstrong
Executive Director