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 Present: Bishop (phone), Burbank (phone), Columber (video), Day, Deschuytner, Haddow, Hall (phone), Herman, Johnson (phone), Jones (phone), Kreckel (phone), Rudelitch, Saufley, C. Smith, T. Smith and Stitham.
Members Absent: Driscoll, Dunitz, Faunce, McDonald, S. Smith and Willey.
Guests: Elizabeth Scheffee.
Staff Present: Weston.

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

Item 1. Accepted Items 1A – 1B: A motion was made, duly seconded, and voted in the affirmative to accept Items 1A – 1B.

A. Approved minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting.
B. Set date of next Board of Governors meeting for Tuesday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m. at Bar Headquarters in Augusta.

Item 2. Treasurer’s report.

A. Treasurer Haddow reported that the March statement marks the halfway point of our fiscal year. Our current revenues and expenses are consistent with last year’s numbers. Membership dues and LRS revenue are down, but CLE revenue is up and we’ve had some savings in the salary line due to being short-staffed for part of the year. We’ve received 75.03 percent of budgeted revenue and spent 43.64 percent of budgeted expenses. At this time last year, we had received 74.53 percent of budgeted revenue and spent 44.93 percent of budgeted expenses. Treasurer Haddow also noted the over $8,400 increase in the Camden
Wealth Management account, which places us significantly ahead from last year. A motion was made, duly accepted and voted in the affirmative to accept the March 2019 financial statement.

**Item 3. Report from American Bar Association (ABA) State Bar Delegate Elizabeth Scheffee.**

Liz Scheffee reported on recent changes in the ABA that could be important to the MSBA and Maine attorneys. Particularly, the ABA has changed its fee structure and reduced fees for attorneys just entering practice. Attorneys with less than 5 years of practice will pay $75 per year; 5-9 years is $150; 10-14 years is $250; 15-19 years is $350; and over 20 years of practice is $450 per year. The ABA has also eliminated fees for those lawyers wanting to join the Solo/Small Firm Section. Liz indicated that she will be attending the Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August, and will provide the agenda to the Board prior to the meeting so the Board can let her know if there is any action she should take on behalf of the MSBA.

**Item 4. Discussed the John W. Ballou Distinguished Service Award to be presented at the Annual Bar Conference.**

Reviewed the nominations received from MSBA members. After brief discussion about each of the qualified nominees, and considering the award criteria, a motion was made, duly seconded, and a majority voted in the affirmative to approve the nomination of Bonnie Steeves as the recipient of the 2019 John W. Ballou Award. Governors T. Smith and Stitham abstained.

**Item 5. Board of Governors reports.**

**A. President-Elect Day.**

1. Asked the Board to consider the possibility of holding a winter meeting in January 2020 in the Portland area. Discussion included possible CLE topics, concerns about declining membership, concerns about low attendance at the meeting, and possible changes to the format of the meeting to draw in more attendees. President Columbo voiced his concern with holding a second membership meeting in 2020, reasoning that it could jeopardize the summer Annual Bar Conference attendance, and that it is not a good use of the budget or the staff’s time and effort involved in planning another meeting. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made, duly seconded, and a majority voted in the affirmative to table the issue of a winter meeting until the May 21, 2019 Board meeting, directing the 2020 Meetings Committee to present ideas for a new format and a budget. President Columbo abstained.

2. Reported that he will represent the MSBA and present the Pro Bono Student Award at the UMaine Law School Commencement on May 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Merrill Auditorium in Portland.

**B. Vice President McDonald: no report.**

**C. Immediate Past President Driscoll: no report.**

**D. Other Governors: no reports.**
Item 6. **Executive Director’s report.**

A. Attended ABA Day on April 9-11, 2019 in Washington, DC with President Columber.

B. The Muskie ATJ Award Dinner is on May 29, 2019 at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. This year’s awardee is Beth Stickney. The MSBA table is full.

Item 7. **President’s report.**

A. Reported that the registration for the Annual Bar Conference will be available online within a week. The conference will be held on June 19-21, 2019 at the Bar Harbor Regency.

B. Attended ABA Day on April 9-11, 2019 in Washington, DC with ED Weston. Reported that we advocated for additional Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funding and for maintaining the Public Loan Forgiveness program within the federal budget.

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Strategic Goal 1: Lead as the voice of the legal profession, igniting discussion and engagement on timely issues affecting Maine lawyers and advancing a positive narrative on the role Maine lawyers play in the state.

- Conduct annual survey on trending legal topic. (Harassment study follow through; PowerPoint by 6/1/18; Report by 9/1/18)
- Improve the image of Maine lawyers through earned media opportunities, partnership initiatives with other professional trades, speaking through civic organizations about the impact of the profession and facilitating lawyer interactions with Maine youth. (Launch speakers bureau; target media and schools)

Item 8. **Law Day 2019 essay and poster contest for Maine schools.**

Contest is ongoing and submissions are due by May 15, 2019. Schools were notified through the Maine Principals’ Association (MPA). We also contacted all county bar associations, sent out a press release, and shared on the MSBA website and all social media sites. President-Elect Day indicated that he will be speaking at his local school on May 1, 2019 for Law Day.

Item 9. **Accountants vs. Attorneys: Summer Softball Showdown.**

The Maine State Bar Association is partnering with the Maine Society of Certified Public Accountants (MECPA) for its 2nd Annual Summer Softball Showdown. The game will be held on August 22, 2019 at 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Freeport Middle School. Past President Driscoll will serve as the MSBA coach.

Item 10. **Update on MSBA CLE and other educational programs.**

A. Wills for Heroes: Veterans’ will clinics to be held in April, May and June of 2019. The CLE training for the clinics was held on March 27 at Bernstein Shur in Portland and webcasted to PTLA offices in Lewiston,
Augusta and Bangor. We had 50 attendees at the various locations. The April clinic was held on April 18 at the Augusta Armory. The clinic in Bangor will be held on May 23 and the Portland clinic will be held on June 13. This is a Veterans Legal Services Initiative (VLSI) program. The VLSI is a partnership between the MSBA, the Veterans' Law Section, and Pine Tree Legal Assistance. The goal of VLSI is to educate Maine attorneys on the civil legal needs, many of which can be health-harming, of Maine veterans and to provide training and pro bono opportunities to help bridge the justice gap for veterans in Maine.

B. Annual joint program by MSBA and Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar: May 14, 2019 at the Augusta Civic Center and May 23, 2019 at the DoubleTree in Portland. Program will be focused on the new one-hour CLE requirement related to harassment and discrimination.

C. Joint program by MSBA and Maine Disability Rights Center: October 2019. Point of contact Kristin Aiello is working with CLE Director Linda Morin-Fasco to determine location of venue and specific topic to be covered.

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Strategic Goal 2: Understand and refine the value of an MSBA membership, with an eye toward organizational relevance, member satisfaction and appreciating member needs.

- Survey MSBA members and non-members.
- Explore the feasibility and merit of a subscription-based dues structure, with recommendations on how it would be structured, what it would do for membership and projected financial ramifications. (ED report by 5/1/19)
- Simply define the current value proposition, the monetary return on that investment and market such value proposition consistently and clearly. (Membership Committee)

Item 11. Membership.

A. Reviewed the membership, new member and resignation reports, which showed membership at 2832 members, with 14 new members, 11 reinstated members and 2 student members since the March 26, 2019 meeting. There were no resignations during the same period.

B. The non-member survey closed on April 19, 2019. ED Weston reported that there were 222 respondents. The survey results were sent to the Membership Committee, which will meet to review and evaluate the results within the next week.

Item 12. Legislative update.

A. Vice President McDonald, chair of the Legislative Review and Response Committee, was not present. ED Weston reported that the Committee has been meeting every Monday at 9:00 a.m. to review new bills and discuss bills that the Committee is monitoring. There is nothing new to report since the last Board meeting.
Item 13. Casemaker update.

The MSBA has a total of 1,888 registered Casemaker users. For March 2019, there were 311 unique users (five of which were first-time users), who conducted 6,835 searches in 959 sessions.

Item 14. Governor liaison reports.

No reports submitted.

Strategic Goal 3: In the interests of professionalism and collegiality, advance efforts to bring lawyers physically together.

- Emphasis areas could include local bench/bar interaction events, member benefit trainings, education on trending legal topics (like e-filing in state courts) and young lawyer welcoming events. (Road show, outreach)

Item 15. New Lawyers Section.

A. Annual networking event at the Sea Dogs game on July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Hadlock Field picnic area in Portland. Tickets are $15 each, and include all-you-can-eat food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Sea Dogs biscuits. The event is open to all MSBA members and their families. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Item 16. Real Estate & Title Section.

A. President Columber, ED Weston and Deputy ED Seavey met with the Section leadership on April 2, 2019 to discuss possible changes to the format of and access to Maine Title Standards. There is resistance from the Section to increase the annual fee of the Title Standards, but the Section members are open to having the document available online. The MSBA staff is conducting research on: options to provide the Title Standards as a searchable online document; costs involved in providing it online; how to make it available to paying members and non-members; creating an annual subscription-based model; and using Casemaker as a possible online provider for the Title Standards.

Item 17. Leadership Academy Class of 2019.

A. The LA Class of 2019’s “Meet the Legislature” session was held on April 8, 2019. The fellows had the opportunity to meet with the following legislative leaders:
Scott Lever, Office of Marijuana Policy (and former MSBA Leadership Academy Alum)
Senator Nathan Libby, Senate Democratic Leader
Senator Dana Dow, Senate Republican Leader
Representative Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
Suzanne Gresser, Revisor of Statutes
B. The next session, “Executive Coaching,” was held on April 23, 2019 (the same date and time as the Board meeting) at the office of Norman Hanson & DeTroy in Portland. Elizabeth Worthington led the discussion, and Deputy ED Seavey and Past President Dusini were in attendance. Class of 2019 fellows include:
Kaylee J. Folster of Vafiades, Brountas & Kominsky in Bangor
Jordan Payne Hay of Skelton, Taintor & Abbott in Auburn
Samuel G. Johnson of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy in Portland
Jeffrey S. LaCourse of Soule, Soule & Logan in Wiscasset
Amy K. Olfene of Drummond, Woodsum & MacMahon in Portland
Stephen B. Segal of Verrill Dana in Portland
Laura P. Shaw of Camden Law in Camden
John W. Tebetts of Tebetts Law Office in Presque Isle

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Item 18. Old business.

There was no old business to come before the Board.


There was no new business to come before the Board.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela P. Weston
Executive Director