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: Babcock, Bishop, Burbank, Columber, Day, Deschuytner, Faunce, Haddow, Herman, Johnson, Kreckel, McDonald, McNally, Saufley, Stitham, Tebbetts and Willey.

Members Absent: Cramer, Dunitz, Hall and Peterson.

Staff Present: Armstrong and Seavey.

The President called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Item 1. Reviewed ad hoc Diversity Committee’s report and recommendations.

Chair of the Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, President Elect McDonald, provided an update on the Committee’s discussions and future plans, and then asked the Board to consider the Committee’s recommendations to form a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color) Lawyers Section and to amend the MSBA Bylaws to add a BIPOC Lawyers Section seat to the Board, similar in structure to the Women’s Law Section seat. Concerns were raised about dues cost being prohibitive to membership within the Section. A motion was made, duly seconded and voted in the affirmative to create a BIPOC Lawyers Section and to recommend to the MSBA membership an amendment to the MSBA Bylaws to add a BIPOC Lawyers Section seat to the Board of Governors. A vote to amend the Bylaws must be put before the MSBA membership at a meeting of the membership. ED Armstrong will research the feasibility of this during 2020. The Board charged the Membership Committee with reviewing current dues structure and costs. The Board also charged the
Bylaws & Policies Committee to amend the Bylaws to add the additional seat for approval by the membership.

Item 2. Approved Teresa Cloutier as the District 6 (Kennebec) Governor for the remainder of the two-year term of January 1, 2020-December 31, 2021.

Item 3. Discussed suspension of in-person events held by MSBA. Considered mandate to suspend all in-person events held by MSBA entities through December 31, 2020 due liabilities and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A motion was made, duly seconded and voted in the affirmative to suspend all in-person events through December 31, 2020.

Adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela P. Armstrong
Executive Director