

MAALJ Newsletter

MAALJ:
The Maryland
Association of
Administrative
Law Judiciary

President's Letter

Dear MAALJ Members,

The weather is crazy. Traffic is crazy. Politics are crazy. In the midst of all that craziness it is a great thing to be able to connect with each other as professionals and as human beings. Just a few months ago, we had a fantastic meeting arranged by our Education committee with good food and great speakers at An Poitin Stil. Next up was the Orioles game arranged by members Mary Shock and Lou Hurwitz. And the membership benefits keep coming...

In June, we will have our MAALJ annual meeting. Tentatively set for June 1, 2016, you'll hear more about the details of that meeting soon, but see Board Member

Michael Osborn's piece in this newsletter giving notice of some changes the Board is recommending to the organization's Constitution and Bylaws.

If you are looking for a professional change of venue, NAALJ has been sharing information on applying for federal ALJ positions. See Board Secretary Sakeenah Graham's article for more information on this topic of interest to many.

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Notice of Proposed By-Laws Amendments

Pursuant to Article X, Amendments, Section 1: Proposals and Notice, of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Maryland Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, Inc., the Board of Governors hereby provides Notice of Proposed Amendments to eliminate the standing Legislation Committee and to eliminate the requirement that

the Treasurer be bonded. The complete text of the proposed amendments is set forth on page 2 of the newsletter.

President's Letter (continued)

Board Member Michael Osborn announces the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for next year's Board in this edition. We will also take nominations from the floor at the June meeting. We would love to see new blood volunteer for the Nominating Committee, or any of our Committees. Picture yourself helping MAALJ find new ways to serve its members.

Finally, I saved one great tidbit for last. The Board has decided to offer a \$500.00 grant to help defray the costs of attending the NAALJ annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, from September 18 - 22, 2016. In keeping with tradition, the grant will be awarded by a drawing taking place at the June dinner meeting. You must be present at the annual meeting to win, and only previous grant winners are ineligible.

Whether it be a neighborhood pub, an O's game, a national conference or a Maryland dinner meeting, I hope to see you there.

Kim Farrell
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Text of Proposed By-Laws Amendments

FIRST Proposed Amendment – to eliminate the requirement that the Treasurer be bonded.
 Rationale: The requirement is unnecessary.

The current provision provides as follows:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 7: Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for issuing invoices for membership dues; collecting dues for the Association; establishing a bank account or accounts in the name of the Association; and paying all bills and expenses of the Association. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

As amended, Article III, Officers, Section 7 (Duties of the Treasurer) will provide:

The Treasurer shall be responsible for issuing invoices for membership dues; collecting dues for the Association; establishing a bank account or accounts in the name of the Association; and paying all bills and expenses of the Association.

SECOND Proposed Amendment – to eliminate the standing Legislation Committee.

Rationale: This standing committee is unnecessary.

The current provision provides as follows:

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 2B: Standing Committees.

Legislation Committee, to investigate, initiate, and develop legislative measures: inquire into the causes and effects of legislation or policy inconsistent with the aims and policies of the Association, in order to further the development and maintenance of high professional standards and efficiency in the conduct of administrative hearings and in the field of administrative law.

In the Amended By-Laws, Article IX, Section 2B (Standing Committees) will be deleted; paragraphs 2C (Nominating Committee) and 2D (Membership Committee) will be re-lettered as paragraphs 2B and 2C, respectively.

MAALJ Takes It To the Yard

On Sunday, April 10, 2016, the MAALJ Events Committee hosted an outing at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. More than a dozen MAALJ members and friends braved the chilly weather to see the Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-3. Special thanks to Mary Shock, Lou Hurwitz and the Events Committee for making this event a success.



ALJ Kim Farrell sports fitting attire for a winter-like afternoon at Camden Yards.

(Photo credit: ALJ John Leidig)

How to Become a Federal Administrative Law Judge

A federal Administrative Law Judge position is both highly coveted and highly competitive...which helps to explain its highly complex and arduous application process. Applicants must have 7 years as a licensed attorney who has prepared for, participated in, and/or reviewed formal hearings or trials involving litigation and/or administrative law at the federal, state, or local level. Applicants must also have an active license to practice law from a U.S. state, D.C., or U.S. territorial court.

Applicants must also successfully

“...the starting salary for the Baltimore/Washington area, as of 2016, is \$133,000.00 per year!”

complete the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) competitive examination. The OPM exam includes online, proctored, and in-person components. The

online component includes a 75 minute multiple choice situational judgment test, a 35 minute writing sample exercise, and an untimed multiple choice and open-ended experience assessment. The proctored component includes a four hour written demonstration and a two hour logic-based measurement test. The in-person component involves a one hour structured interview designed to evaluate an applicant's responses to competency-based questions related to being an ALJ. The proctored and in-person components are conducted in Washington, DC.

Following the successful completion of the ALJ examination process, applicants are given a numerical score and placed on the ALJ Register. OPM refers applicants from the ALJ Register to federal agencies that have entry level ALJ vacancies to fill.

Those interested in pursuing federal ALJ positions should periodically check www.usajobs.gov for

the OPM ALJ exam posting.



OPM will only accept ALJ exam applications during the specific times listed on its ALJ exam posting. There is no schedule for when OPM posts announcements for the ALJ exam, however, the last two postings were made in 2009 and 2013. The long and complicated process may be worth the trouble as the starting salary for the Baltimore/Washington area, as of 2016, is \$133,000.00 per year.

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MAALJ

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*An Affiliate Chapter of the
National Association of
Administrative Law Judiciary*

Upcoming Events!!

**2016 MAALJ Annual Meeting
June 2016
(Details coming soon!)**

**2016 NAALJ Annual Conference
September 18-21, 2016
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Report of the Nominating Committee

Members:

Pursuant to Articles IX and VII of the Constitution of the Association, the Nominating Committee (consisting of Kim Farrell, Will Somerville, and Mike Osborn) respectfully submits to the members of the Association the following list of candidates for election to the following positions at the Annual Meeting of the Association:

Officers:

*Will Somerville
John Leidig
Kim Farrell
Sakeenah Graham
Marc Nachman*

*President
President-elect
Immediate Past President
Secretary
Treasurer*

Board of Governors:

*Terri Garland
Bonnie Leppert
Lou Hurwitz*