MSBA Orientation for Section Legislative Liaisons
Thursday, October 27, 2022
4 p.m.–5 p.m.
Virtual

Meeting ID/Link:
https://msba-org.zoom.us/j/87113687327
Introduction

David Shapiro, Esq., MSBA President
MSBA: Advocacy at Work

- Advocacy at all levels - Work and contributions of Sections are integral to shaping our collective voice and our success, as you are the subject matter experts.

- We speak on behalf of the profession and practice areas (even for those who do not belong), to protect the profession and Marylanders.
Legislative Accomplishments – 2022 Session

- **Judicial Transparency Bill** (Gov. Hogan priority bill) – MSBA suggestion to identify judges by jurisdiction rather than individually rolled into another bill and passed.

- **Business Law Section** drafted and secured passage of three bills that positively impact businesses around the state.

- **Estates and Trusts Section** modernized Estates and Trusts practice (authorize notary for remote work, execute remote will without notary).

- **Funding for Access to Counsel in Evictions** – MSBA secured +$40 million from the General Assembly and the Governor since 2020.

- **And much more from other Sections.**
Connecting with All Branches of Government
MSBA Advocacy Overview

Shaoli Katana, Director of Advocacy Initiatives and Member Engagement
Advocacy and Influence On Behalf of the Profession

- Develop and assist legislators and Maryland leaders through the expertise of our members and our practice areas/Sections.

- Consistent and effective voice coordinate through MSBA’s Advocacy Program, email advocacy@msba.org

- Goal: better tracking and reporting mechanisms so that we can be more effective, understand historical advocacy and future opportunities. Not meant to hinder anyone’s important work on behalf of a Section.

- Designate a legislative liaison, email advocacy@msba.org

- MSBA Trackbill reporting process - updated this year (two reports/week, weekly calls for all legislative liaisons)
Trackbill Reporting Process

**Step 1**

**Section Reports:** MSBA reviews and tags bills by practice area and provides reports twice a week to each Section legislative liaison, chair, and council members.

*Sections should contact the MSBA with suggested keywords and topics to enhance these searches. Section liaisons may also access the bill tracking software (contact Shaoli).*

**Step 2**

**Section Feedback:** Sections communicate feedback for MSBA and Laws Committee to consider and identify positions they plan to take on bills at advocacy@msba.org within two days of receipt of Section Reports.

*MSBA will respond/confirm receipt within one business day and provide a final response regarding testimony within two business days.*

**Step 3**

**Ongoing Weekly Calls:** During the legislative session, the MSBA will hold a weekly call where legislative liaisons can provide feedback, discuss important issues, ask questions, and share information about legislation.

**MSBA Outreach:** The MSBA will also reach out directly to Section legislative liaisons on specific issues or bills of interest to the profession for feedback and/or testimony throughout the session.
Overall Process for Section Advocacy

**Step 1**
Sections Contact MSBA Prior to Taking Action on Bills: Each Section should contact advocacy@msba.org in advance of taking any action or position on a bill and attach details of the bill, the Section’s position, and any draft testimony.

*Sections may provide minor technical revisions and comment to legislators without the above process. Please email a copy of commentary to advocacy@msba.org.*

**Step 2**
MSBA Review and Response: MSBA reviews feedback from Sections and will provide final response within two business days to Sections about bill positions so that they may proceed with advocacy, as long as there is no conflict with the MSBA’s position.

*Note: If there is a more time-sensitive turnaround time needed, please indicate that in your communication to MSBA (or to Shaoli directly).*

**Step 3**
Section (and/or Laws Committee) Submits Testimony: After approval from the MSBA, sections may submit oral or written testimony on a particular bill and should email a copy to advocacy@msba.org for tracking purposes.
Laws Committee

- MSBA staff asks the Laws Committee to evaluate and recommend MSBA’s position on bills of broad interest to all attorneys, including attempts to regulate the profession, taxation of legal services, the administration of the courts, judicial elections, and limitations or immunities from liability.

- MSBA’s Legislative Program provides guidance on issues important to the profession and historical positions.

- Occasionally reviews bills that are more particularly of interest to substantive law sections, such as criminal, family or employment law. Requests comments from the relevant Section and either defer entirely to that Section’s decided position, or consider Section’s comments before deciding whether to recommend an MSBA position.

- *Opportunity for MSBA, both at the section level and as a whole association, to provide information and guidance to lawmakers even if not taking a formal position.*
Rules Committee

Thomas Stahl, Liaison to Rules Committee of the Court of Appeals
Advocacy Strategies

Former Sen. Bobby Zirkin
Advocacy Strategies

- Section Advocacy Tips, Opportunities for MSBA
- Preview of Upcoming Session
Trackbill Orientation and Brief Training

Andrew Marciniak, Director of Client Success at Trackbill
Practice Area Updates

Click below to see the latest status of legislation MSBA is tracking in each practice area.

Access to Justice and Delivery of Legal Services
MD Attorney General's COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force
Animal and Agricultural Law
Business and Taxation
Consumer Bankruptcy
Criminal Law & Correctional Reform
Elder & Disability / Estates & Trusts
Environmental & Energy Law / Construction Law
Family & Juvenile Law
Health Law

Immigration Law
Intellectual Property, Entertainment & Sports Law
Judicial Matters & Legal Education
Labor and Employment
Law Firm Management
Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
Military & Veterans Affairs
Negligence Insurance & Workers Compensation
Real Property Law
State Government & Administrative Law

Legislative Action Center

MSBA's advocacy team is tracking bills throughout the legislative session. Stay tuned to our Legislative Action Center to see the latest status of the legislation we're following.

Sort by: Last Action | Bill Number ▼ | Intro Date
Feedback/Q&A

Contact Us:

advocacy@msba.org

Shaoli Katana: shaoli@msba.org
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