



Committee/Section Meeting Minutes
HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
The Board of Directors of the HCBA
Tuesday, January 9, 2007
HCBA Offices

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Unger at 12:10 p.m.

The minutes of the board meeting of November 14, 2006 were approved.

Rashan Rajkumar, chair of the Membership Committee, reported on the efforts of that committee to institute a one-on-one mentoring program for the HCBA. A pilot program, premised on a partnership relationship, is contemplated. Operating instructions and periodic follow-up will be part of the program. The pilot will kickoff on February 12th. Mr. Unger thanked Mr. Rajkumar and stressed the importance to the HCBA and the profession.

The next item was a discussion of an HCBA legislative agenda; posing the following questions:

1. What should be the role of the HCBA?
2. What would be the guidelines for HCBA legislative involvement?
3. How should our positions be implemented in a nimble fashion? Should the HCBA be proactive or merely reactive?
4. How does the HCBA fit with the MSBA legislative positions and visibility?

The Board considered the question of local focus versus state-wide issues, with some attention to the more urban nature of the HCBA. The guideline question was discussed in the context of whether the association should take a position that can or will be divisive.

Judge Rogers identified limited areas within the court budget that could implicate specific Hennepin County concerns, e.g. staff salaries or needed additional positions. Judge Sanberg asked that the board be kept apprised of bills affecting the profession. She stressed that multiple voices (from several bar associations) sometimes are helpful. Judge Rogers identified that some judges are in the executive budget and that their concerns should be kept in mind.

Mr. Wahl asked whether a smaller group is required to take a position quickly. Mr. Unger suggested a group comprised of the President, President-Elect, Chair of the Government Relations Committee and the lobbyist might be efficient.

Mr. Unger suggested that as a general matter, the HCBA should adopt the position of the MSBA unless our committees or sections have a contrary point of view. Given the fact that the legislature is now in session, the views of our committees and sections should be solicited prior to the next board meeting regarding those positions within their subject matter areas.



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Ms. Ward- Reichard stressed the need to establish standards (guidelines) for those matters as to which the HCBA will take a position.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that HCBA adopt the current positions of the MSBA with the understanding that positions should be reviewed by the pertinent committees and sections and, if any of those committees or sections should recommend a different position, then such recommendations will be considered by the Board at its February meeting.”

It was moved, seconded and passed that the Board empowers a subcommittee comprised of the President, President-Elect, Chair of Government Relations and lobbyist to express a position on unanticipated legislative issues, provided it is not inconsistent with a Board position and is deemed to be preferable to taking no position, and provided further that the committee seek consultation of the Board and pertinent Section Chair whenever and however practical prior to taking such action. In the event that prior consultation is not practical, then the subcommittee shall inform the Board of its action and reasons therefore as soon as possible.

Tom Fraser, chair of the Call for Justice Task Force, reported on the action and posture of that Task Force. Mr. Fraser put the Task Force in the context of the national recognition of the desirability of a single point of contact hotline. Such issues as staffing, geographical scope and the extent of services offered are being considered. The relationship to United Way is being explored. Recommendations of the Task Force are expected in May or June of this year. In response to questions, he indicated that non task force members will be surveyed as part of the Task Force’s process. President Unger thanked Mr. Fraser for his willingness to serve, stressing the importance of the vision of a single point of contact hotline.

President Unger spoke of the Executive Committee’s intention to promote the HCBA at CLE functions, informing attendees of the variety of ways that the bar association provides value to the legal community.

Mr. Buxbaum reported that LINC 2007 begins on January 12th. Ms. Schulze provided highlights of five month’s results.

Ms. Ward –Reichard reported on Bar Benefit fundraising and encouraged participation and attendance. Mr. Unger added his support of the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Laurence R. Buxbaum, Executive Director

In lieu of

Chris Morris, Secretary