



## **HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

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**The Board of Directors of the HCBA  
Tuesday, January 13, 2009  
HCBA Offices**

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The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Vasaly. The minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were approved.

Ms. Vasaly raised for discussion the possible HCBA response to the severe economic downturn. She raised the question whether the association should make printed material available to the public. Mr. Webber indicated that the attorney general's office has excellent publications for public use. Mr. Espel related the question to the court funding crisis; President Vasaly cited in response recent editorials and a CD that is being prepared for public distribution. Ms. Bell suggested some advertising to make people more aware of the available legal services program. Perhaps Law Week programming can address this issue in part. Mr. Degnan cited some suggestions that are emanating from the Bench and Bar to assist the bench through this crisis.

Ms. Vasaly alerted the Board to likely legislation to levy a sales tax on legal services. She mentioned that the MSBA president is considering changing that association's position of opposing such a tax, if funds generated by the tax were dedicated to the judiciary budget. The Board expressed doubt that the legislature would agree to a dedicated fund and further supported maintaining a position against a sales tax on legal services. Ms. Vasaly described the background that has led to a disparate effect of the budget shortfall upon Hennepin County District Court.

Mr. Stanley addressed the possibilities of bar associations helping members through resume writing, programs on interviewing skills, and similar services, based upon actions taken at other bar associations.

Ms. Vasaly then raised the question of whether the HCBA should be suggesting changes in election law, in light of the US Senate race and recount. The Board discussed possible loopholes exposed by the recount. In general, the Board felt that the process worked well and that legislation will be forthcoming from the secretary of state to address some of the issues. The issue is state-wide in nature and not limited to Hennepin County.

Ms. Vasaly raised sought input on whether the HCBA should formally use senior lawyers, either in a section or in task forces. She cited the loss of availability to the association of senior lawyers in larger firms. Ms. Vasaly addressed the issue of senior lawyers doing pro bono work, with law firms continuing malpractice insurance for them. Ms. Miller-Van Oort



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pointed out that sufficient number of members would have to be identified. Mr. Degnan opined that senior attorneys can mentor in the pro bono arena.

Mr. Morris updated the Board on a planned lunch on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. with the executive committees of several specialty bars. The lunch will be informal.

Mr. Buxbaum reported on a successful initial session of LINC 2009. He directed attention to the HCBF fundraising effort and the brochure distributed to the Board.

Ms. Schulze reported on financial results year to date. Stock market results have adversely affected the bottom line, as have the payments for the office renovation. Dues are up, as are CLE receipts. Membership is now up to 8,400.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jewelie Grape  
Secretary