



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors of the HCBA

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

HCBA Offices

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. The minutes of the February 12, 2008 board meeting were approved.

Mr. John Dornik, co-chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the meeting of that committee and slate of nominees. He reflected the fact that Mr. Routman was willing to fill the MSBA/HCBA ABA delegate slot and Ms. Trudy Halla had indicated an interest in the HCBA/ABA slot, should that slot be open. Upon motion made and seconded, Mr. Routman was nominated to the MSBA/HCBA slot. Upon motion made and seconded Ms. Halla was nominated for the HCBA/ABA delegate slot. The board then accepted the nominations of the Nominating Committee for officers of HCBA and MSBA; accepted the recommendations for endorsement; and accepted the nomination of the MSBA Assembly Voting Representatives and Alternates. A full list of elected and endorsed candidates is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Mr. Burns reported on behalf of the Diversity Committee, recommending adoption of a resolution in support of creation of an MSBA task force relative to Project 515. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the Hennepin County Bar Association supports the adoption by the Minnesota State Bar Association of a resolution to create a task force to study legal disparities as between same sex couples and different sex couples, and to recommend changes, if any, to address the disparities.

Mr. Burns further reported for the Diversity Committee, recommending adoption of a resolution in support of the Fair Pay Restoration Act. A motion to continue was defeated. The following resolution was adopted after discussion:

Resolved, that the Hennepin County Bar Association supports enactment of 5.1843, the Fair Pay Restoration Act, without delay.

Ms. Ward-Reichard, Ms. Zens, Ms. Grape, Mr. Sandok, Mr. Wind, and Mr. Morris abstained.

Mr. Buxbaum and Mr. Stanley described the status of proposed costs relative to construction of new and enhanced HCBA space. Mr. Buxbaum reviewed the construction and related costs and Mr. Stanley described the audio visual enhancements. Ms. Miller-Van Oort described the prior history whereby the Finance and Planning and Executive Committees examined financing costs versus use of reserves. Mr. Buxbaum answered questions. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the following resolution:



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Whereas the Hennepin County Bar Association has executed that certain Second Amendment of Lease whereby the HCBA's leased space will be expanded and enhanced; and

Whereas, the proposed construction, related expenses, audio visual enhancements and furniture ("the additional expenses") will exceed the landlord's tenant improvement allowance under said Second Amendment of Lease by approximately \$375,000.

Whereas the reserve (unrestricted balance) of the HCBA per the most recent audited statements is \$989,797, representing 43.5% of budgeted expenses of \$2,273,031, adjusted for attorneys fees under the Commitment Defense Project contract,

Now THEREFORE, be it resolved that the President and President-Elect be and hereby are authorized to borrow up to \$250,000 to meet a portion of the additional expenses and to expend the balance from HCBA reserves, the proportion of borrowing and reserve expenditures to be determined in their discretion.

President Miller-Van Oort described discussions with the Executive Director about transition planning. She described in broad strokes the discussions and the proposed responsibilities/duties of the Executive Director during a contemplated one-year period of transition. After discussion, upon motion made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the HCBA Board of Directors hereby ratifies and confirms a transition planning agreement by and between the Hennepin County Bar Association and Executive Director Laurence R. Buxbaum and authorizes the officers of the HCBA to execute the same.

President Miller-Van Oort encouraged the board to read her last THL column and indicated a commitment to urge HCBA members to refocus on professionalism.

Ms. Ward-Reichard encouraged attendance at the Bar Benefit tonight and indicated very successful fundraising results in conjunction with that event.

Ms. Schultze reported that CLE attendance has greatly increased in the last two months, with revenue running 40% ahead of the prior year.



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Mr. Routman reported on the actions taken at the mid-year meeting of the ABA House of Delegates. He touched on debate concerning conditional admission to the bar and standards for accreditation of law schools, tied to bar exam pass rates.

The board was reminded that the board will consider the 2008-2009 budget at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Courtney Ward-Reichard
Secretary