



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors of the HCBA

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

HCBA Offices

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Morris. The minutes of the March 9th, 2010 Board meeting were approved, with the change to describe Ms. Nelson as Co-Chair of the Civil Litigation Section.

The next item on the agenda was consideration of a proposed 2010-2011 budget, recommended by the Finance & Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. Members had been furnished with a narrative describing the budget at prior meetings of the board. The board asked questions of staff. The budget as submitted was approved.

The board elected Sarah Noel to the Central Minnesota Legal Services, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Morris then raised the question of the role of the HCBA in preparing an economic study of the impact in Hennepin County of an inadequately funded judiciary. He described a conversation with representatives of the 4th Judicial District, requesting that such a study be undertaken by an academic with the assistance of the HCBA in obtaining funding. Mr. Morris cited a study of this type that was done for the Los Angeles County court system at a cost of \$8,000.00 (claimed to be at a loss). He asked if there are local expert witness/economists who might adapt the Los Angeles study. The board discussed whether a local study would be inappropriate when the whole state is adversely impacted by inadequate funding. Mr. Ojile questioned whether any study would have credibility, particularly with legislators.

The board discussed who might fund a study. The chamber of commerce or a trade association might be a funder. A local expert might be willing to do it cheaply. Mr. Unger suggested the American Judicature Society and the ABA Foundation might have already done such a study or would. Mr. Webber suggested a variety of sources to address credibility issues, including trade associations, law firms, the chamber, and the real estate industry. Mr. Sandok cautioned against ignoring the authors of the Los Angeles study. Several directors recommended applying the methodology to more remote counties/courts, as well as to Hennepin County. Mr. Jensen spoke in favor of meeting the request of the local court; he suggested a possible expert. Ms. Ward-Reichard stated that such a study might well have value in the longer-term. Mr. Jensen questioned the necessity of a major expenditure.

Mr. Morris updated the board on the judicial election/constitutional amendment legislation. He denied the existence of a rift with Ramsey County, as "reported" in the Minnesota Lawyer. Mr. Morris cited the unwillingness of Rep. Mullery to hold a hearing. Funding for an educational campaign is being committed, on the assumption that the constitutional amendment will be on the ballot. Mr. Morris reported on a meeting of the MSBA's Minority Bar Summit, which may become a project of the MSBA's Diversity Committee.



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Ms. Ward-Reichard reported on a Bar Benefit net of \$102,000.00. Net revenue to the HCBF in 2009-2010 from all sources is approximately \$120,000.00

Mr. Buxbaum reported on progress with the Commitment Defense Project and Call for Justice initiative. Mr. Buxbaum and Mr. Lichty described ongoing efforts to diversify and activate the Hennepin County Bar Foundation Board.

Ms. Schulze reported on year to date results, highlighting the LRIS and CLE shortfalls and discussing projections for year-end results. Mr. Unger asked how projections were calculated for LRIS. Ms. Schulze indicated that six accounting firms have responded to RFPs from the association. A decision as to auditors will be made shortly, based upon the responses and selected interviews.

Ms. Peterson reminded the board to consider nominating an individual and/or firm for the diversity awards.

Mr. Morris pointed out upcoming events and encouraged attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Jensen
Secretary