



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors of the HCBA

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

HCBA Offices

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. The minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved as amended by Mr. Jensen.

Susan Holden, HCBA delegate to the ABA House Delegates, reported on that body's mid-year meeting. She discussed presentations to the House by candidates and officers. Of particular interest was the debate on imputed conflict of interest in cases of lateral transfer among law firms. She also cited proposals arising out of the Katrina experience, which received House approval.

President Vasaly recognized Finance and Planning Chair Larry Espel, who moved adoption of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010. After questions to Mr. Buxbaum and Ms. Schulze, upon motion duly made, the proposed budget for 2009-2010 was unanimously adopted. Ms. Vasaly pointed out that additional requests for funds from the MSBA may be forthcoming.

President Vasaly then recognized Mr. Degnan to describe ongoing efforts by the legal community to work with the Hennepin County bench. Two subcommittees of the Bench and Bar Committee are working on "loaned associates as law clerks" and on doing pro bono/ADR work for the court. In the latter case, the subcommittee is exploring the use of special masters as well as pro bono activity in other areas. Ms. Holden added that law practices and client costs will be impacted by legislative action. Increased filing fees and an increase in the lawyer registration fee can be anticipated; a sales tax on legal services is still up in the air. She pointed out that outstate courts may be more severely impacted by a lack of law clerks. Mr. Degnan emphasized the continuing need to contact legislators concerning the budget, emphasizing the efficiencies already in place at the Hennepin County District Court.

President Vasaly delivered her report. She emphasized the 4th Judicial District Court's cost-effective programs that might be jeopardized by a budget shortfall. She reported on her attendance at a recent drug-court graduation, which was moving and remarkable. She informed the board that she has sent letters to medium sized firms along with the model pro bono policy, which will be followed by visits to the firms. She reported on efforts to get a senior lawyer group going; initial resistance has come from lawyers objecting to the senior designation. Efforts will continue to accumulate a critical mass. Ms. Vasaly noted that she has submitted a diversity survey to the ABA; she praised the HCBA efforts and encouraged attendance at the April 21 seminar being sponsored by the Diversity Committee. Ms. Vasaly encouraged continued lobbying on the court funding, sales tax and judicial selection issues.



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Ms. Vasaly indicated that Judge Denise Reilly has been invited to be the Annual Meeting speaker. Mr. Espel recommended reading the Coleman-Franken decision.

Mr. Buxbaum reported on progress in the Call for Justice Initiative.

Ms. Schulze reported on 8 month results. CLE revenue is exactly on budget; LRIS revenue overall is slightly ahead of budget. Stock market unrealized loss and remodel costs are the only “negative” impacts on the budget year to date.

Mr. Sandok reported on the ongoing efforts of the Membership Committee. That committee has focused on the value equation of a county bar, stressing that the intangibles are as important as the tangibles. Thus professionalism, social interaction, and community opportunities are important. He pointed out the committee helped to design a three segment free CLE series to help attorneys in a time of economic turmoil. He invited board participation with the committee.

Ms. Vasaly complimented Duane Stanley and the THL committee on the April Fool’s issue. Reaction was very positive.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jewelie Grape
Secretary