



Committee/Section Meeting Minutes
HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
The Board of Directors of the HCBA
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
HCBA Offices

President Unger called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. The minutes of April 10, 2007 meeting were approved.

Mr. Unger reminded the Board of the presentation at the last meeting on the Quie Commission report and his commitment to bring the Board different perspectives. He introduced Chief Judge Lucy Wieland, who then spoke of her experience and the views of district court judges. She spoke to the concern that Minnesota voters would never vote to remove their right to vote. She spoke of a vocal minority of district court judges who were elected in contested elections and favor those elections. The Judicial Council is traveling the state, educating judges so as to better understand the background and the evidence that the Quie Commission considered. The district judges association is not favorably inclined to retention elections, as that would require fundraising, a committee and a campaign. The Judicial Council has no firm position. Governor Quie has formed a group to raise funds and lobby. She opined that the bar associations and judges might coalesce around the minority report. Appellate judges, while fewer in number, are more likely to favor retention elections; district court judges, many of whom would never face opposition, are less enamored of retention. The judicial evaluation component is not opposed by Hennepin County judges, who already do significant similar evaluations. She discussed the political calculus behind various constitutional amendments that would be required.

Eric Kaardal, counsel for the plaintiff in the White case, reported on his view of the current election system. He spoke for the right of the people to have their voice heard in the form of electing the state Supreme Court, among others. He cited some inherent weaknesses in the current electoral process for the appellate court. He cited the failure of Rule 8.2 of the Rules of Professional Responsibility to address the requirement of narrowly tailoring restrictions on speech. He further opposed the incumbent designation on the ballot, particularly in multi candidate contests that are state wide. Jim Rogers suggested review of the ABA Judicial Evaluation.

President Unger then called upon Ned Wahl, Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee, who moved the adoption of the 2007-2008 Annual Plan. The plan was adopted unanimously.

President Unger then described the minor changes in the Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee procedures and affirmation. The changes were unanimously adopted.



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

President Unger delivered his report. He praised the Bar Memorial, which was held on May 2nd. He encouraged attendance at the Annual Meeting by all members of the board. A table will be organized from among the board attendees.

Ms. Schulze reported on nine months' results, indicating favorable variations to budget.

Mr. Buxbaum updated members on LINC and the Call for Justice task force, both of which are reaching their conclusion for the year.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Morris

Secretary