



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**The Board of Directors of the HCBA
Tuesday, September 8, 2009
HCBA Offices**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Morris.

The minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting were approved.

Mr. Morris recognized Craig Sandok, a member of the Nominating Committee, who delivered the report of that committee. Mr. Sandok reported on the meeting of that committee on August 25th and its slate of candidates for the At-Large representatives on the Finance & Planning Committee and a candidate for Voting Representative to the MSBA Assembly. Upon motion duly made, the slate was adopted. Those elected are:

Finance & Planning Committee At-Large Members:

Kimberly Lowe
Sandi De Boom
Julianne Ortman
Steve Marino
John Orenstein

Voting Representative – MSBA Assembly

Jonathan Strauss

The President introduced Representative Steve Simon, to speak on the subject of judicial selection/election legislation. Rep. Simon then spoke about the legislation, its genesis and its implications for the public and the judiciary. He reviewed the White case and campaign costs in other jurisdictions, warning of the possible consequences for Minnesota. He explained the legislation that flowed from the Quie Commission and the legislation that he and other legislators have sponsored. Retention elections, eight year terms, no merit selection for appellate judges and a 24 member judicial evaluation commission (8 from the governor, 8 from the Legislature, and 8 from the Supreme Court) are in the bill. He reviewed the support and opposition and the basis for those positions. Rep. Simon described the strategy of a pared down constitutional amendment proposal, to be followed by filling in the statutory gaps. He encouraged constituent contact with legislators and with key leadership. He cautioned that as many as four committees will hear the bill and act upon it. Ms. Vasaly advocated consideration of the evaluation model being recommended by the Supreme Court's ad hoc evaluation committee.

President Morris then spoke generally of the responsibilities of the members of the Board. He stressed the nature of fiduciary duties. Members of the board introduced themselves and their expectations for the bar and board year. Mr. Morris distributed the HCBA conflict of interest policy and asked directors to sign the same.



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Mr. Morris encouraged attendance at the Attractive Nuisance Tour and Judges Social, emphasizing the need to bring others.

Mr. Buxbaum updated the board on initial meetings of several committees and other entities, stressing that the association will be ready to “hit the ground running.” He spoke of a proposed pro bono summit in October with medium sized law firms.

Ms. Schulze reported on HCBA finances. She spoke of favorable dues income, but cautioned that interest income will not reach budget. She described the process of contributing to the HCBA pension, in response to a question.

Ms. Halla spoke of developments at the ABA Annual Meeting. She reported that Judge Cara Lee Neville and Fred Finch are assuming new high positions (Secretary and Board of Governors) at the ABA. She spoke of the ABA’s commitment to the independence of the judiciary, including civic education on the separation of powers. She reported on action related to legal aid and public defense; corporations were encouraged to waive conflicts more readily. Ms. Halla indicated that the ABA is re-involved in federal court nominations in the new Obama administration.

Mr. Louwagie recommended involvement in the Master Trial Lawyer Series, an inexpensive method to get expert instruction. Ms. Dunn recommended attendance at a pre Judges Social networking session. Mr. Sandok endorsed attendance at the Attractive Nuisance Tour on October 9th.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Jensen
Secretary