



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors of the HCBA

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

HCBA Offices

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Chris Morris. The minutes of the October 13th board meeting were approved.

The president then directed attention to a PowerPoint slide presentation on Judicial Selection/Election, prepared by the Minnesota State Bar Association for presentation to community groups. This presentation is a major component of the strategy to secure legislative passage of a constitutional amendment to be voted on in November 2010. A coalition, led by the MSBA and Minnesotans for Impartial Courts, has been meeting regularly to discuss strategy and coordinated efforts to convince the legislature. The board members were urged to contact Mr. Morris, Mr. Buxbaum or Nancy Mischel at the state bar (612) 278-6331 if they wish to participate in making such a presentation. The board discussed whether the changes proposed will result in more or fewer judges of color.

In conjunction with any presentations to community groups or others, several board members recommended that the presenter focus on a few key issues. The sentiment was expressed that such an emphasis would be highly persuasive.

Mr. Morris then indicated that the HCBA is in discussions with Chief Judge Swenson and court administration concerning obtaining funding to conduct an economic analysis of the impact of inadequate funding of the judicial system. He solicited suggestions as to possible sources of that revenue (\$60,000.00), including foundations. Mr. Morris explained the court's reasoning behind seeking an economic analysis. Ms. Vasaly suggested the Open Society/George Soros organization. Mr. Engel suggested a foundation that has as a priority community economic health.

Mr. Morris recognized Beatriz Menanteau, who spoke of the National Hispanic Bar Association upcoming National Convention to be held in Minneapolis on September 8-11th, 2010. Minneapolis is honored to have been chosen; the convention will draw over 1,000 attendees. The event will feature CLE programming on several tracks. The MHBA is seeking partners/sponsors to participate in a variety of ways. She solicited interest from among the members of the Board.

Mr. Buxbaum updated the board on discussions relative to the CDP contract. He also cited the successful Candid Conversation with the Judges program and positive aftermath.

Mr. Morris highlighted upcoming events and encouraged attendance.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Jensen
Secretary