



## HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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### The Board of Directors of the HCBA Tuesday, November 13, 2007 HCBA Offices

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The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Miller-Van Oort.

The minutes of the October 9, 2007 Board meeting were approved.

President Miller-Van Oort then directed attention to the 2007 Advisory Board recommendation. She explained the history of the Advisory Board and the basis of the recommendation. Ms. Zens explained the VLN approach to the recommendation, which was a question of where the position should be housed, doubt that medium sized firms would help to fund the position, the qualifications/conditions of employment of a pro bono coordinator and other sources of funding. Ms. Szitta expressed the concern of the HCBF about the level of buy-in by VLN and the qualifications of the coordinator. Ms. Ward-Reichard added further information from the HCBF about the timelines of HCBF action on the proposal.

President Miller-Van Oort encouraged the Board to express a position or concern, regardless of the VLN or HCBF position. In answer to a question, Ms. Ward-Reichard indicated the potential for some, but by no means all of the funding for the envisioned position from HCBF. She indicated that the estimate of a \$50,000.00/year salary is probably understated.

Mr. Morris described his firm's pro bono coordination with VLN to staff a clinic four times a week, coordinated by an attorney and his/her assistant. He expressed skepticism about other medium sized firms sitting down with an outside coordinator. Ms. Ward-Reichard described her firm's efforts and commitment to pro bono, which relies on an attorney pro bono committee, instead of a full-time coordinator. Mr. Espel indicated that his firm is already active and would not need or welcome an outside coordinator. Ms. Vasaly asked whether a \$50,000/year attorney working full time on representation would be preferable to a coordinator. Ms. Chang-Bohr described her organizations experience in attracting volunteers.

Ms. Szitta expressed the view that many medium sized firms would be opposed to an outside coordinator and would not contribute to funding a position. Ms. Miller-Van Oort expressed a view that a lack of a coordinator inside results in an overall lesser amount of pro bono. Mr. Jensen agreed, based upon his firm's experiences.

The concerns, summarized, are concerns about:

1. Financing the position.
2. The location of the position, i.e. who would be the employer?
3. The receptivity of some firms to meeting with a medium-sized coordinator.
4. Whether this is "coordination" or really an awareness campaign.



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President Miller-Van Oort then addressed the upcoming consideration of the Quie Commission recommendations. She re-emphasized the THL, CLE program, and membership survey as part of the HCBA effort. Survey response has been excellent in the early phases

President Miller-Van Oort alerted the members to the ABA demonstration planned for November 14 in support of the Pakistani lawyers who have been beaten and imprisoned. The MSBA and other bars in Minnesota will demonstrate at the Minnesota Supreme Court tomorrow at noon, in sympathy for the Pakistani lawyers and in support of the rule of law. The board adopted the following resolution:

*The HCBA opposes restrictions on the rule of law as demonstrated recently in Pakistan. The HCBA supports the demonstration efforts organized for November 14, 2007 at the Minnesota Judicial Center, joins those efforts with the MSBA and other legal organizations, and encourages its members to participate.*

President Miller-Van Oort advised the Board on an initiative by the Hennepin County bench to assist lawyers in enhancing litigation skills of newer lawyers. Ms. Vasaly and Mr. Iwan stressed the efforts of the Bench and Bar committee in this respect. The New Lawyers Section indicated its continuing interest.

President Miller-Van Oort thanked the Board for its contribution of non-perishable food to the Tubman Family Alliance.

Mr. Sandok reported on a very successful Attractive Nuisance Tour that will distribute approximately \$27,500.00 to both the HCBA and the Minnesota Justice Foundation.

The President then called upon Thomas Anderson, chair of the Lawyer Referral Oversight committee. He described LRIS from a historical and practical basis. He stressed the importance to members of the public getting good and accurate information quickly and accurately, as well as the financial advantages to both the public and to the attorneys that are members of the Lawyer Referral service. Mr. Anderson described the pro bono and low bono services, as well as the traditional lawyer referral. President Miller-Van Oort indicated that the LRIS will be formally presenting a request for additional marketing funds at the December Board meeting. Staff and Directors answered questions about the effectiveness of the marketing efforts to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Courtney Ward-Reichard  
Secretary