



HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**The Board of Directors of the HCBA
Tuesday, December 9, 2008
HCBA Offices**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Mary Vasaly.

Tom Fraser delivered a report to the board on the Call for Justice Initiative and the most recent developments in implementing that report. He then answered questions from the board.

The board then approved the minutes of the October 14, 2008 board meeting.

President Vasaly introduced a proposed resolution relating to support of candidates for judicial office by the president and president-elect of the HCBA. She provided background, indicating the possibility of inferences to be drawn about organizational support. Mr. Strauss opposed the resolution as overly restrictive. Mr. Morris expressed support for a restriction only as to Hennepin County District Court candidates. Mr. Degnan supported a bright line for all judicial offices. Ms. Miller-Van Oort supported the broader resolution as precluding misleading representations by a candidate.

Mr. Strauss moved “That the president and president-elect of the Hennepin County Bar Association shall not publically endorse or monetarily support any judicial candidate in Minnesota.” The motion was seconded.

Mr. Jensen expressed the view that a problem does not currently exist. He further observed that officers’ support of an incumbent judges should be entirely acceptable. Mr. Degnan observed that applicability to the resident and president-elect only is appropriate. Ms. Miller-Van Oort concurred. Mr. Sandok expressed the view that all judicial candidates is an overly broad prohibition.

The motion was defeated 10 – 9.

Mr. Buxbaum described an excerpt from the HCBA business/marketing plan and answered questions from the board.

President Vasaly described ongoing efforts to secure adequate funding of the judiciary, citing the recent announced significant budget shortfall. She indicated legislative support, tempered by the budgetary crisis. Ms. Vasaly described plans for a video on the subject, to be distributed statewide through public access television. Ms. Vasaly encouraged the board to participate in meetings with the Bench and Bar Committee. Ms. Vasaly reported on a meeting with the VLN Executive Committee to discuss VLN’s current and anticipated financial condition. VLN is exploring a multi-faceted fundraising campaign; Mr. Bye described the



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meeting as constructive. He stated that the VLN personnel complement has changed and is stable. Ms. Ward-Reichard pointed out that VLN Strategic Planning effort is proceeding and expressed the desire that the strategic plan be finished to the HCBA and HCBF..

Mr. Buxbaum described new effects at ensuring financial oversight. Mr. Buxbaum further reported on a diverse 27 person LINC 2009 class.

Ms. Schulze reported on financial results for four months. She highlighted investment results and renovation expenses as being the major impacts upon year to date results.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Jewelie Grape
Secretary