



## HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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### The Board of Directors of the HCBA

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

HCBA Offices

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The meeting was called at 12:15 p.m. The minutes of the November 13, 2007 were approved with correction of a typographical error.

Mr. Buxbaum explained the status of lease negotiations, answering questions. Upon motion of the Ad Hoc Lease Committee, Ms. Miller Van Oort was authorized to execute the second amendment of lease in substantially the form presenting to the meeting. Ms. Zens abstained. A full copy of the resolution, lease amendment – and related documents are attached hereto.

The Finance and Planning committee then proposed a resolution authorizing amendment of the 2007-2008 budget by adding \$50,000 to line item 7200 (Lawyer Referral) and including an additional \$50,000 in that item for fiscal year 2008-2009. Mr. Morris moved that the resolution be amended by striking the language following the word Lawyer Referral. The motion was unanimously adopted. As amended, the motion was unanimously adopted. The Board was assured that the \$50,000 for fiscal year 2008 – 2009 will be within the budget to be discussed and adopted in April 2008. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto.

The Board then turned to discussion of the Quie Commission report and a possible HCBA recommendation. The Board first reviewed the survey of HCBA members; President Miller-Van Oort pointed out the small number of responses, not necessarily reflective of an overall HCBA view.

The Board reviewed five alternative resolutions, one of which reflected the Quie majority position, two of which were versions of the Quie minority position, one of which provided for appointment with legislative confirmation, and one endorsing the status quo. The Quie Commission's underlying unanimity was described, to wit, that change and change now was necessary to minimize the influence of partisan politics and special interest money.

Mr. Unger moved adoption of Resolution #2, the Quie Commission majority recommendation a copy of which is attached. He spoke in favor, pointing out the reluctance of the legislature to take away the electorate's right to vote in any way. Failure to take into account the legislature's attitude may be to miss a unique opportunity. Ms. Szitta seconded the motion and spoke in favor, deeming the minority report politically unfeasible. Ms. Vasaly opposed the motion, opining that voters do not currently vote for judges and also lack the expertise to evaluate judges or candidates. She expressed the view that retention elections still require fund raising and may cause judges to consider the effects of their decision on whether they will be challenged in a retention election. Ms. Chang Bohr opposed the resolution, preferring the status quo, which has been virtually free of politics and special interest money. She stated that the status quo may better enable women and people of color to run for office successfully. Mr. Strauss spoke against the resolution. Mr. Espel supported the motion as being the most pragmatic resolution, as it continues to have voter involvement, albeit in a different form.



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On the motion to adopt resolution #2, 9 voted in favor, 7 against, and 2 abstained. The resolution was therefore adopted.

President Miller-Van Oort discussed the budget shortfall recently announced by the Hennepin County District Court and its programmatic effects. There are longer term budget considerations. The court desires that the bar identify potential areas of greater judicial efficiency and assist in longer term planning. President Miller-Van Oort also discussed the rally in support of Pakistani lawyers, which was well attended and overwhelmingly supported by members. She thanked the Board for its food donation to the Tubman Family Alliance.

Ms. Schulze discussed four months' results, which are favorable to budget.

The Board discussed the need to publicize the resolution relative to the Quie Commission and what lobbying might be done by the HCBA. President Miller-Van Oort suggested a visit to the state capital might be in order to meet with legislative leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Laurence Buxbaum  
Executive Director