

MSBA'S APPELLATE PRACTICE SECTION COUNCIL
Minutes of May 5, 2011 Meeting

Attending: Chuck Webber, Robin Wolpert, Jon Schmidt, Steve Buterin, Karen Cole, Erik Hansen, Judge Bjorkman, Liz Kramer, Diane Bratvold, Ashley Hacker.

- iCarly sound machine gift presented to Chuck Webber. There was much rejoicing.
- Gift presented to Ashley Hacker for wonderful job as liaison. Ashley will be missed.

1. Approval of minutes.

No discussion for approval of previous minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report.

Jon Schmidt provided the treasurer's report. The balance is \$3,056.19. The previous lunch is reflected in that balance.

3. Appellate Lunches.

The April 28 lunch was a great success. Very impressive speaker. Very close to breaking even on the lunch. Discussion about helping the SCOTUS blog for the Minnesota related portion of website.

August / September lunch. Still working on confirming the speakers. Civil Lit. will co-sponsor the lunch and provide \$2,000. Council approved Appellate Section providing \$2,000 as well. Total may be less than \$4,000, but budgeting for worst case scenario. Each speaker will have \$500 speaker fee plus expenses.

The court of appeals reunion will be in April or May. Discussion regarding speakers, asking Judge Lansing for help and doing something for Judge Toussaint.

4. Court of Appeals Reunion Lunch.

Discussion regarding the agenda. Chief Judge Johnson will forward the invite to clerks. There will be a sign up sheet at tables with questionnaire.

5. Annual Meeting.

May 17 at Jax Café. Invite has gone out. Judge Toussaint will speak.

6. Pro Bono Program

Jon Schmidt provided an update on the PD's Office pro bono program. Pilot program has started. Conflict waiver issue discussed.

The fall training program for asylum pro bono appeals was discussed. Erik Hansen will contact the asylum program about holding the event at a firm the week of Sept. 19. Discussion for coordinating the event and offering free lunch and CLE credit.

Judge Bjorkman provided court of appeals' perspective of needs for pro bono attorneys. There are a lot of pro se litigants in unemployment compensation cases and family law appeals. Considering whether to have pro bono attorneys participate in family law mediations. Robin will contact Sheri about that possibility. Chuck will contact Tom Boyd to discuss unemployment compensation cases.

Discussion regarding getting on the MSBA's pro bono day to have 5 to 10 minutes to discuss pro bono appellate opportunities that are available.

Discussion regarding discussing Appellate Section and pro bono opportunities with current appellate law clerks.

7. New Business.

Chuck Webber has drafted a letter to Chief Justice Gildea for the Section to be a clearing house for situations where the Minnesota Supreme Court has a pro se litigant who is in need of representation.

Diane Bratvold discussed the 2011-12 Council Nominations. Many nominations received. Karen Cole will be nominated for Secretary / Treasurer, Jon Schmidt for Vice Chair and Robin Wolpert for Chair. The new member nominations are: Robert Sicoli, Sharon Van Dyck, Paul Banker, Tom Radio and Mark Bradford.

The nominations will be formally made and approved at the May 17 annual meeting.

7. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jon Schmidt
Secretary/Treasurer