

MSBA'S APPELLATE PRACTICE SECTION COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

The MSBA Appellate Practice Section Council meeting was held on September 4, 2008, at the MSBA offices in Minneapolis. Sherri Hawley led the meeting. The following topics were discussed:

Approval of Minutes. A motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 1, 2008 was made and the motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Steve Buterin reported that, as of the end of June 30, 2008, the section had a balance of \$1,370.61.

MSBA Appellate Lunch Series. Robin Wolpert reported on the work of the committee. She reported that the lunch series was set to launch on Monday, September 29, 2008. The guest speaker will be David R. Stras from the University of Minnesota Law School, who has agreed to speak on the upcoming United States Supreme Court term. Robin reported that he charges a \$500.00 speaker fee, and the committee planned to recoup that cost through future lunches. The council then discussed the location of the initial lunch and the type of lunch service to be provided. After lengthy discussion, Diane Bratvold moved to authorize the appellate lunch series committee a budget of \$2000.00. Ken White seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Court of Appeals Law Clerk Reunion. Steve Buterin and Paula Vraa reported on the committee's work. They noted that the reunion lunch was scheduled for October 10, 2008 at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. They reported that although he has another commitment over the lunch hour, former COA Clerk and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman had agreed to welcome attendees and offer brief opening remarks before leaving for his other commitment. The Committee was still working on arranging additional speakers for the event and was finalizing the details for the lunch itself.

Public Defenders Office Pro Bono Project. Jon Schmidt reported that he was working with the State Public Defenders Office to hopefully put together a pro bono program similar to the re-employment insurance pro bono project headed up by Tom Boyd. Jon is working with Teddy Giatis from the Public Defenders Office to identify areas of need and cases that would be available for such a project. The council agreed this was a worthwhile effort and agreed to form a committee to assist Jon. The other members are Louise Behrendt and Karl Robinson. They will report with further details about the proposed program as appropriate.

Court of Appeals 25th Anniversary Events. Diane Bratvold reported that the Court of Appeals is hosting a dinner on November 6th at the Landmark Center in St. Paul to commemorate and celebrate the court's 25th Anniversary. In addition, there will be a related CLE at William Mitchell earlier that day.

Amicus Issue. Sherri Hawley reported that she had received a request to the section to appear as an Amicus in the *Alahapperuma v. Mahon* matter. After discussion, the council agreed that the section should not appear as an amicus in the case.