

## MSBA's Appellate Practice Section Council

### October 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The MSBA Appellate Practice Section Council met on October 2, 2008, at the MSBA offices in Minneapolis. Sherri Hawley led the meeting. The following council members were present: Diane Bratvold, John Baker, Louise Behrendt, Karen Cole (by telephone), Peter Gray, Kay Nord Hunt, Andrea Reisbord, Karl Robinson, Jim Simonson, Chuck Webber, and Ken White (by telephone). Kayla Jurens was the MSBA staff person on hand for the meeting.

The meeting started at 12:11, and the Council discussed the following topics:

1. Approval of Minutes. After a motion by Jim Simonson, a second by Louise Behrendt, and a unanimous vote, the council approved the minutes of the September 4, 2008, meeting.
  2. Treasurer's Report. Chuck Webber, the new Treasurer of the Section, had not had a chance to review the financial reports regarding the Section, and therefore was unable to give a detailed report. He noted that as of the end of June 30, 2008, the section had a balance of \$1,370.61, and that the Council recently paid a \$500 honorarium to Professor Strass, who spoke at the September 29 lunch seminar regarding the Supreme Court.
  3. Annual CLE planning committee. Sherri Hawley said that the first question was when to have the annual appellate CLE. She said that Minnesota CLE was urging the Section to pick a month and stick with it each year. After discussion, the Council decided that March was probably the best month to select. Several Council members pointed out that we would need to coordinate with the judges whom we expected to invite to the seminar. Diane Bratvold, Peter Gray, Karl Robinson, and Chuck Webber volunteered to be the planning committee for the event. Sherri Hawley remarked that Minnesota CLE's deadline for setting the course faculty and program was November 6, but only if we planned a February seminar.
  4. Appellate lunches. Andrea Reisbord attended the September 29 appellate lunch and said that there was a good turnout. 46 people originally signed up; there were some no-shows, but they were roughly balanced by people who signed up at the door. She also reported that five of the seven Justices of the Supreme Court attended, and several judges from the Court of Appeals as well. Andrea said that the program was very interesting. The only problem with the event was that the food showed up rather late, but Andrea reported that it was good once it arrived. She also noted that Chief Justice Magnuson helped set the tables at the event, and Justice Paul Anderson helped bus the dishes after lunch. Jim Simonson attended and agreed with Andrea's assessment. Sherri asked how many law clerks attended; after checking, Kayla reported that the number was less than 10.
- Sherri said that the next lunch will be held on January 26 at The Lex. It will be a reception for the three newest judges on the Court of Appeals. Sherri said that rather than having a reception and a speaker, someone would just introduce the three new judges and then let people visit with them and each other.
5. Rescheduling November Council meeting. There is a CLE on November 6 that many on the Council will be attending, so we will need to reschedule our meeting that was previously scheduled for that day. After discussion, November 13 emerged as the date for the next Council meeting.

6. Committee formation. Sherri reported that we are not required to form committees, but that we could do so if we wanted to. Louise Behrendt reported that she had some ideas for Practicelaw.org and that she'll continue to pursue those ideas. She said that she does not need help right now, but will let the Council know if she does. Sherri discussed the possibility of creating a practice-area directory that would show the specialty area(s) of the Section members. The Council was nonplussed by that idea, and the discussion ended. With respect to a membership committee, Kayla reported that the Section currently has 198 members, up from 165 last year, and up from 130 four years ago. Discussion then turned to the possibility of a greater Minnesota outreach committee. Peter Gray volunteered to be on such a committee, and nominated Steve Buterin in absentia to serve on that committee. The Council gratefully agreed to Peter's suggestion. No other committees were suggested.

7. Reunion for Court of Appeals clerks. The lunch will be held on October 10, 2008. The Section helped put the lunch together, but isn't really running it. Sherri mentioned the possibility that someone not in the Section would be emcee for the event and asked if anyone had a problem with that. Nobody did. Diane Bratvold said that she will make some calls to ensure that someone would be emcee for the event—Section member or not.

8. Pro bono project with Public Defender's office. Jon Schmidt was not able to attend the meeting, so there was little discussion. Louise Behrendt reported that she, Karl Robinson, and Jon Schmidt had traded e-mails about the project. We will have this among the agenda items for the next meeting.

9. Lunch tab volunteers. The next several Council meeting lunches are covered.

10. Other business. Peter Gray noted that Chief Justice Magnuson would be delivering a "state of the judiciary" speech at the Federal Bar Association luncheon on October 15 at the Minneapolis Club.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Chuck Webber  
Treasurer/Secretary