

MSBA'S APPELLATE PRACTICE SECTION COUNCIL

Minutes of September 3, 2009 Meeting

Attending: Steve Buterin, Chuck Webber, Ken White, Louise Bjorkman, Karen Cole, Paula Vraa, Sherri Hawley, Andrea Reisbord, Bill Hart, Robin Wolpert, Erik Hansen, Karl Robinson, James Simonson.

Steve Buterin opened the meeting and requested approval of the minutes for the May 19-20, 2009 email meeting. The minutes were approved.

Robin Wolpert provided the treasurer's report. Based on figures available as of September 2, 2009, the section's balance was \$4,931.46. This balance includes section dues through August. The balance reflects the section's payments of expenses for the Rosen event. Robin is awaiting further information as to whether there are any remaining expenses to be paid for the Rosen event.

Steve Buterin then directed the discussion to the subject of the appellate lunches. Steve requested feedback on the question of whether we should co-sponsor October's lunch with the administrative law section and whether we were diluting our brand by collaborating with other sections in putting on the lunches. After much discussion, the group supported co-sponsoring the October lunch with the administrative law section but also agreed that we should co-sponsor only occasionally. The discussion then turned to the specifics of the October lunch. Robin stated that she would work with the luncheon committee to plan the October lunch and would incorporate the ideas of the Council in planning the event.

Greg Luce of MSBA then gave a presentation regarding new technologies and identified options for how the Council could use new technologies to promote its goals. He discussed how practicelaw.org, facebook, Linked-in, and other technologies permit Council members to communicate with each other and share information regarding Council business. Steve Buterin proposed establishing a committee to study the issue. Sherri Hawley and Chuck Webber will serve on the committee with Steve.

The Council then considered proposed amendments to section by-laws addressing the issue of when the term of an officer starts and concludes. Sherri Hawley raised the additional question of what happens after an executive officer serves her term and how long that officer remains on the Council after serving her term. Steve Buterin proposed establishing a committee to study and make recommendations regarding changes to the by-laws. Chuck Webber and Louise Bjorkman agreed to serve on the committee with Steve.

Steve Buterin raised the question of whether the Council was interested in providing CLE programming for the district bar events during MSBA's Nine Days in June. Steve proposed establishing a one hour CLE program on appellate practice issues that the Council would prepare and then volunteers would do the CLE presentations at various venues in greater Minnesota. The Council supported this idea.

The Council briefly discussed whether there are additional pro bono programs for appellate practitioners and Karen Cole raised the subject of updating various practice law forms. Steve Buterin proposed reviewing the forms and information posted on practicelaw.org to determine what needs to be updated. Sherri Hawley volunteered to update the juvenile law-related forms. Karen Cole also volunteered to review and update forms.

Robin Wolpert
Secretary/Treasurer