

## MSBA CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION GOVERNING COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2009  
MSBA Office - Minneapolis, MN

**Attendees:** Jan Conlin, Dan McGrath, Kevin Curry, Mark Delahanty, Hon. Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks, Edward Matthews, Brett Olander, Brian Slovut, Bill Sjolholm, Will Partridge, Bruce Candlin, Andy Luger, Marcy Wallace, Ken Udoibok, Dean Gavin, Melissa Wendland, Kim Basting

There were no minutes from the January meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The account balance is \$82,264. \$2,000 will be used to pay for the February 3, 2009, New Lawyers' Section lunch, which resulted in 116 new members. Costs for the Annual Meeting will be about \$5,000. The MSBA will charge the section \$6 per person for administrative costs when selling a copy of the "Time's Up" manual.

**Advocate Award:** Justice Paul Anderson is the award winner. Jan will notify him.

**Annual Meeting:** Arrangements are made for the April 16 event. The luncheon and CLE will be free; turnout is expected to be large. The section will run a full page ad in Bench & Bar and a half page ad in Minnesota Lawyer. In addition, an invitation will be sent to section members.

**Budget and Spending Subcommittee:** Bill Sjolholm explains the subcommittee's recent efforts and report. The section agree to support the MSBA mock trial program in the amount of \$4,000. The section agrees to table discussion about additional spending until after annual meeting. Section dues will remain \$22.

**District Court Opinions Project:** Despite our efforts, and that of other sections, the number of submitted opinions is falling.

**Judicial Directory:** The section continues to believe this project is worthwhile, despite the logistical difficulties in meeting with individual judges. One proposal is to send a short, individual questionnaire to the Minnesota District Judges Association meeting. Unfortunately, a form lacks the detail developed during a personal interview. A second proposal is to send an interviewer to local judicial district meetings. However, Mark Delahanty's efforts to do this in 3<sup>rd</sup> District were not successful. Hiring an interviewer remains an option. Andy Luger believes that getting a local interviewer, connected to local judges, is the key. Alternately, a figure of some state-wide renown, such as a retired state supreme court justice, may be helpful in moving the project forward. Failing that, we need someone to coordinate lawyers who will then reach out to their local judges. Judge Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks, Mark Delahanty, and Charlie Bird will prepare a draft judicial questionnaire, which can be followed up by interviews.

**Section Lunches:** Mary Vasaly is setting up a lunch about the judicial funding issue with Justice G. Barry Anderson. Paul Godfrey is setting up a May lunch about the 35W Bridge Collapse. Clay Taylor continues his efforts to set up a lunch about the Senate recount. But the key players are in trial. Jan Conlin reports that the New Lawyers' Lunch was well received.

**Legislative Report:** Marcy Wallace reported. There are three relevant bills at the Legislature.

1. A bill clearing up technical issues concerning 35W.
2. A bill raising the cap on tort claims against the state.
3. A new version of the foreign money judgment bill – allowing Minnesota to enforce a foreign money judgment if due process was provided in a given foreign case.

The section discussed judicial budget cuts and the upcoming town hall meetings on this topic. These meetings are a good opportunity to educate/reach out to legislators. Brett Olander will follow up with State Senator Tarryl Clark about section membership.

Meeting Adjourned.