

MSBA CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION GOVERNING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2009

MSBA Office -- Minneapolis, MN

Attendees: Jan Conlin, Bill Sjöholm, Peter Carter, Marcy Wallace, Dan McGrath, Paul Godfrey, Kevin Curry, Andy Luger, Galen Robinson, Brett Olander, Mark Delahanty, Charlie Bird, Ed Matthews, Gregory Luce (MSBA), Melissa Wendland (New Lawyers' Section), Kim Basting (MSBA)

Meeting Minutes: The April 2009 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The account balance is \$76,109. (from this will be subtracted approximately \$15,000 for last month's annual meeting and funds to re-order the Times Up Manual)

Dispute Resolution Center: Former council member Deb Heisick, along with DRC Executive Director Janice Zimmerman, discuss the DRC's need for funding and seek funds from the Civil Litigation Section. The council determines that funding of pro bono organizations should not happen on an ad hoc basis. Bill Sjöholm's subcommittee will consider a structured approach for such use of section funds. The council will address the issue next fall.

April 2009 Annual Meeting: The reviews for last month's lunch and CLE have been positive. There is a general agreement that the Section should provide a CLE for members each year, at no additional cost to members. An idea for next year's CLE is a mock appellate argument, with retired appellate judges deliberating.

Judicial Directory: The judicial questionnaire is finalized. Judge Halbrooks will request that the MN District Judges' Association send it by e-mail to all district judges. When responses are returned, the present thought is to post them on the MSBA website. As not all judges will fill out the questionnaire, or fill it out completely, the council must determine the best approach to follow up efforts. Perhaps these efforts can be lead by an MSBA lawyer in each district.

MSBA Convention (June 24-25): The section may present a CLE at the MSBA Annual Convention. If the appropriate people are available to speak, the Franken-Coleman election dispute is a possible topic.

Judicial Funding – MSBA Efforts: The judicial branch sustained a budget cut, but the MSBA's efforts at legislative outreach helped make a bad situation better.

Sales Tax on Legal Fees: This issue is still alive at the Capitol, but unlikely to go forward.

Section Lunch: The next section lunch is May 29, 2009, concerning the 35W bridge collapse.

District Court Opinions: Greg Luce (MSBA) reports that the MSBA's Civil Litigation and Labor sections, Tim Groshens, and the District Court judges are close to reaching agreement on this issue. Additionally, PracticeLaw is being updated.

Meeting Adjourned.