

Public Law Section (PLS) Minutes – December 14, 2010

Present: Jim Alexander, Diane Alshouse, Jacqueline Bailey, Dana Banwer, Kim Basting, Barry Greller, Carol Lansing, Nancy McLean, Mary Miller, Inta Sellars, Margaret Westin

October 2010 minutes were approved.

Co-Chairs Report (Jim_and Dana):

Client Security Board – Harriet Sims’ position on the board will be open June 30, 2011, and she is not eligible to run again. We have typically had a PLS member on the board. Applications are due March 11, 2011, and a committee recommends board members to the MSBA Assembly. The Assembly decides on a name to forward to the Supreme Court. If you are interested, the PLS will support a PLS member or council member’s candidacy to be on the board.

MSBA Member Profile – FYI sent by e-mail. Contact Kim Basting if you want one.

(No treasurer’s report.)

Committee Reports:

CLE – We sponsored an ethics CLE with the Washington County Bar Association on December 17 in Stillwater. The Annual Meeting CLE on elimination of bias will be at the Klas Center at Hamline on 5/20. There will be a CLE planning meeting on January 6, 2011. The PLS will sponsor a CLE at Nine Days in June on “Collateral Consequences of Criminal Prosecutions.” Todd Schoffelman contacted the Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) to get county attorneys presenters and will also contact the public defenders. Inta contacted the DHS Licensing Division and they will also present.

Awards – Nancy raised discussion on how a number of county attorneys have retired and that they would be potential career recognition award nominees. Nancy will contact MCAA. We will advertise the awards by e-mailing the PLS, using MCAA and the PDs websites, a Bench and Bar ad and contacting the district judges association and city attorneys.

Data Practices – Margaret reported that the data practices committee celebrated Tony Palumbo’s election as Anoka County Attorney. His position on the committee has been filled by

a representative from his office. The structure for the data practices meetings is to identify common problems one month ahead for discussion at the next month's meeting. The group does not have any formal legislation to sponsor this year.

Local Government – The Minnesota City Attorneys conference will be held in February.

Community and Public Service – Loaves and Fishes is the PLS's responsibility the first Wednesday of even numbered months. There were new volunteers at the December event because of an e-mail Kim sent out. If we want to continue a legal clinic at the loaves and fishes, Nancy was told we should be there more frequently. We had 11 families for the holiday adopt a family; last year we had six and this year started with six but added five more. If you are interested in a pro bono project to assist people in getting their birth certificates, contact Nancy. Finally, there was to be a meeting held on the reader/writer workshop on December 15 at Stadium View School.

Newsletter – Greg is handling the next edition and the deadline is December 31, which was extended to January 7, 2011.

Other/New Business:

Legislation – no new legislation for the PLS to discuss. Jim sent a letter to the Real Property Section saying that we had no comment on their legislation. Barry will check with Bryan Lake regarding whether the lien statute amendment will be proposed.

MSBA Assembly Meeting – Mary reported that the attorneys' registration fees going to legal aid and the public defenders will continue for at least two more years.

Next Meetings:

January 14, 2011 – DHS in room 1148 (on the right just past the store when you come in the main entrance)

February – U.S. Attorney's Office

March – Hennepin County Attorney's Office

April - Minneapolis City Attorney's Office