

MINUTES
PUBLIC LAW SECTION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2008
Hennepin County Attorney's Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Greller, Mary Miller, Jim Alexander, Kim Buechel Mesun, Inta Sellars, Michael Goodwin, Nancy McLean, Dana Banwer, Todd Schoffelman, Greg Brooker and Jacky Weigelt

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Diane Alshouse and Tom Kalitowski.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT:

MSBA LIAISON PRESENT: None.

Co-Chair Barry Greller called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 2008 Public Law Section meeting were approved.

CO-CHAIRS' REPORT: Barry Greller and Mary Miller presented the Co-Chairs' Report:

- Mary Miller and Barry Greller are filling out a survey of MSBA section chairs. Several different aspects of the survey were discussed. Mary Miller read a portion of a November 25, 2008, letter from MSBA Executive Director Tim Groshens relating to the administrative fee. The administrative fee was suspended in 2006. MSBA is considering reinstating the fee.
- Louis Thayer attended the Public Interest Career Expo and provided information to interested students about the work of the MSBA Public Law Section. Michael Goodwin will follow up with students who expressed interest in the section.
- Barry Greller reported that the Public Law Section goals for 2008-2009 will be posted on the MSBA website.
- The MSBA is requesting two weeks lead time for requests for assistance by MSBA staff. This is due in part to the current absence of Kim Basting. Jill Kittock and Meghan Harper are filling in for Kim while she is out.
- A CLE notice was sent out via email on behalf of the MSBA Animal Law Section.

- Anyone who is interested in serving as the Public Law Section legislative coordinator should let Mary Miller or Barry Greller know.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Kim Buechel-Mesun): Kim Buechel-Mesun distributed a report of the Public Law Section revenues and expenses. Dues are running close to projections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Awards (Jim Alexander and John Choi) – The Public Law Section CLE and annual meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2009. Space for the meeting and CLE has been reserved at the Midland Hills Club. A payment request for the \$400 non-refundable deposit was approved. Midland Hills has waived the \$150 room reservation fee.
- b. Community and Public Service (Nancy McLean) – Nancy McLean reported that the first volunteer legal clinic was held on December 3, 2008, in conjunction with the Loaves and Fishes dinner. Four lawyers volunteered their services for the clinic. A total of 13 clients talked with one of the volunteer lawyers. The clinic went well. Nancy reported that the next Loaves and Fishes is scheduled for February 4, 2009. Nancy also reported that the Adopt-A-Family deliveries will be done on December 10, 2008.
- c. Pro Bono (Nancy McLean and Tom Kalitowski) – Nancy McLean reported that the Public Law Section will be asking the MSBA for administrative support for the Pro Bono project.
- d. CLE (Todd Schoffelman) – Todd Schoffelman reported that the participants are set for the post RNC Convention CLE. The CLE will be a lunch time CLE to be held in St. Paul on a date yet to be determined. Todd reported that he participated in a phone conference to begin the planning process for the CLE's to be held in conjunction with the MSBA convention in Duluth in June 2009. There will be two tracks for the CLE's. One track will focus on how to make money in private practice. A second track will focus on public law issues.
- e. Data Practices (Margaret Westin and Todd Schoffelman) – No report.
- f. Local Government (Carol Lansing and Eileen Wells) – No report.
- g. Membership (John Choi) – John Choi reported that Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul have been working on the details of a plan that will allow for office memberships to the MSBA for members of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office and the St. Paul City Attorney's Office.
- h. Newsletter (Kim Buechel Mesun) – Please submit articles for the Newsletter to Kim by December 31, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- January 13, 2009 Minnesota Department of Human Services (Inta)
- February 10, 2009 U.S. Attorney's Office (Jim)
- March 10, 2009 Ramsey County Juvenile Justice Center (Diane)

James S. Alexander
Public Law Section Secretary