

MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

November 14, 2006

(by conference call)

Present: Craig Eichstadt (president); Tom Weaver (president-elect); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Jeffrey Ellis (E.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Jeremiah Morgan (W.D. Mo.); Bob Rossiter (Neb.).

Absent: Tom Boyd (at-large); Julie Cullen (at-large); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Diane Bratvold (Minn.); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.); Mark Marshall (S. Dak.); Krista Kester (past president).

Association President Craig Eichstadt called the meeting to order around 9:40 a.m.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October meeting, as previously circulated.

Treasurer Barry Pickens reported that the current balance in the Association checking account is \$23,294.03 while the Association certificate of deposit stands at \$23,556 and some change. He further reported that the Association's Form 990 was now complete and that he had also been able to resolve the confusion regarding the Association's taxpayer identification number(s). He noted that the expenses for the recent Association-sponsored continuing legal

education program in Kansas City were less than previously authorized by the Board. The Board unanimously approved Barry's treasurer's report.

Membership chair Mark Marshall was unavailable but sent an advance report by e-mail showing current Association membership at 281, with 49 members not having renewed for the membership year beginning July 1, 2006. Craig noted that Mark previously had sent to district directors, for follow up, lists of the non-renewing members in their geographic areas. Craig indicated that the nature of the follow-up contacts would be left to the individual directors.

Craig noted that Director Angela Campbell was not available to report on any progress on revisions to the Association website.

Director Jeremiah Morgan noted that he and Director Diane Bratvold had received responses from 20-25 possible volunteers for the Association's planned mentoring program for attorneys newly admitted to practice before the Eighth Circuit. Jeremiah invited members of the Board to volunteer also if desired. He said there was a reasonable geographic balance among current volunteers, although there were no volunteers yet from Nebraska or North Dakota. The next steps, said Jeremiah, would be to (1) put mentor contact information on the Association web site; (2) revise and finalize the letter to new admittees; and (3) have the Court start sending out the letter. Someone asked whether the Eighth Circuit will mention the mentoring program on its web site and/or include a link to the Association's planned on-line mentor information. Secretary Margaret Callahan noted that the "forms" section of the Eighth Circuit web site currently includes an Association enrollment form.

Craig called the Board's attention to previous discussions regarding possible amendment of the Association bylaws to allow the secretary and treasurer to serve consecutive terms. He noted that no decision had yet been made on whether, or how, to amend the relevant bylaw.

Barry noted that some rotation of officers is good and stated that he did not plan to continue another year as treasurer. Margaret indicated she did not plan to continue as secretary. Craig said that he would throw some proposed language together for the next meeting but that maybe, due to changed circumstances, the question of consecutive terms was no longer an issue.

Director Lajuana Counts reported that more than 80 attorneys attended the Association-sponsored continuing legal education program in Kansas City in October. The program included presentations by Michael Gans and by a panel of three judges (Wollman, Riley and Gruender) moderated by Jeremiah. Lajuana reported that the program provided good information and that the food at the post-program reception was good. Gans talked about electronic case filing, and Association programs committee co-chair Alok Ahuja compiled materials on electronic filing for a handout.

Association Director Bob Rossiter stated that he had had an opportunity since the September Board meeting to visit briefly with Judge Riley; however, their conversation was interrupted before Bob could raise the issue of a possible Association event when the Court sits in Omaha sometime after the first of the year. Bob will pursue the issue with Judge Riley.

Director Jeffrey Ellis stated that she had heard the Court might sit in Little Rock again in Spring 2007. She noted that Michael Gans and three Eighth Circuit judges (Shepherd, Smith and Arnold) are scheduled to appear at the Arkansas Bar Association's December federal practice seminar. She said she would see if she could get a five-minutes slot on the program to promote the Association and/or get an Association membership form included in the written program materials.

Jeffrey further reported that the next Eighth Circuit judicial conference tentatively is set for the Drake Hotel in Chicago for some time in 2008. She said Arkansas District Judge Barnes

is heading a committee to explore changes in the Conference that might make attorneys more likely to attend.

Craig raised the issues of needing to identify other possible program opportunities for the Association. He mentioned specifically St. Louis, possibly for Fall 2007, or Saint Paul, possibly in conjunction with the re-opening of the courthouse there (although that is not anticipated until 2008).

Craig stated that the Association officers would be meeting as a nominating committee to prepare a slate of new officers and directors for submission at the December Board meeting. He requested that directors send their suggestions to him. Secretary Margaret Callahan, who has also been serving as newsletter editor, raised the issue of needing to pass the newsletter job on to someone else, as she has held it for four years. She suggested that the new editor either be a Board member or be included in all Board meetings and communications so as to be fully informed about Association events and news for use in the newsletter.

Craig noted that the regularly scheduled date for the next meeting would be Tuesday December 12, 2006.

The meeting adjourned around 10:15 a.m.