

## MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

March 8, 2005

(by conference call)

**Present:** Krista Kester (president); Craig Eichstadt (president-elect); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Tom Boyd (at-large); Tom Sullivan (E.D. Ark.); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Bob Herman (E.D. Mo.); Bob Rossiter (D. Neb.); Doug Bahr (D. N.Dak.); Jim Layton (past president).

**Absent:** Lajuana Counts (at-large); Tom Weaver (at-large); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); David Herr (D. Minn.); Mark Marshall (D. S.Dak.).

The meeting was convened by Association President Krista Kester shortly after 2 p.m.

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the February meeting, as previously circulated.

Treasurer Barry Pickens reported that he had no recommendation yet as to a suitable dollar amount for triggering the dual signature requirement for Association checks. He is involved in a game of "phone tag" and expects to have a recommendation shortly.

Tom Boyd reported for the programs committee on plans for a reception and continuing legal education program in St. Paul in May. Tom and Association member John Baker of Minneapolis are the co-chairs of the organizing committee for this event.

The Court has identified the evening of May 11, 2005 – the Wednesday of May court week – as the best time for the reception. The organizing committee proposes that the reception be held at the St. Paul Hotel, which is where most of the judges stay during court week.

Tom asked for input into use of a “split day” schedule for the continuing legal education program – i.e., having a half-day program Wednesday afternoon before the reception with another half-day program the following morning.

Tom said Michael Gans is willing to be on the program, with his exact topic yet to be determined. Other program ideas include a “new judges” panel, developments regarding the federal sentencing guidelines, changes to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, interlocutory review, judicial independence, a case update on either Eighth Circuit or U.S. Supreme Court law, and a tribute to the late Judge Richard Arnold. He said he hoped many of the speakers would be Eighth Circuit judges, although it was noted that judges likely would not be available in the morning due to court. Krista said that Judge Morris Arnold gave a riveting speech at the January memorial service for his brother.

Firm sponsors will be sought to help cover costs of the reception. Minnesota CLE may have some level of involvements in the continuing legal education program, for example by assisting with preparation of materials and mailings. The Association will ask Michael Gans for permission to publicize the reception and educational program through the Court’s “VIA” electronic mailing system.

The continuing legal education program tentatively also will be held at the St. Paul Hotel. The registration fee has not yet been set. The need to keep the fee reasonable, to accommodate government attorneys, was noted. It was also noted that out-of-town attorneys would be unlikely to attend if the program were only a half, rather than a full, day.

Tom Sullivan recommended that if the “split day” schedule is used, registrations be accepted, at a somewhat reduced rate, for either just the afternoon or just the morning program. He said he received a number of inquiries about half-day registration when the “split day” schedule was used for the September 2004 Eighth Circuit Appellate Practice Institute co-sponsored by the Association.

Use of a discounted registration fee for Association members received favorable comment, despite recordkeeping issues.

It was also proposed that the Association include in registration materials summaries of the cases to be argued Wednesday morning, so that interested attorneys could attend arguments before the start of the educational program.

The organizing committee hopes to finalize the program and other details promptly and will circulate an e-mail to Association officers and directors within a couple of weeks providing an update and identifying any issues that may need to be resolved.

In other business, Krista noted that she and programs committee chair David Herr have not yet heard anything further regarding the Association’s role for the October 2005 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference. There is no report yet from the membership committee on strategies for member recruitment.

The next Officers/Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, April 20, at 2 p.m., by conference call.

The meeting adjourned about 2:40 p.m.