

MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

May 16, 2006

(by conference call)

Present: Craig Eichstadt (president); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Diane Bratvold (Minn.); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Jeremiah Morgan (W.D. Mo.); Bob Rossiter (Neb.); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.); Mark Marshall (S. Dak.).

Absent: Tom Weaver (president-elect); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Tom Boyd (at-large); Julie Cullen (at-large); Jeffrey Ellis (E.D. Ark.); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Krista Kester (past president).

Association President Craig Eichstadt called the meeting to order shortly after 9:30 a.m.

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

Craig noted that there would be no treasurer's report due to the absence from the meeting of Barry Pickens. Craig said the only recent expense was for the Little Rock reception, in honor of Judge Morris Arnold, co-sponsored by the Association and the Journal of Appellate Practice and Process of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock School of Law.

Membership committee chair Mark Marshall reported no change since the last membership report.

Director Angela Campbell reported on the possible modification or improvement of the Association web site. She indicated that the issue was what, if anything, the Association should do other than update committee information and other information already on the site.

Angela indicated she had received some suggestions for the web site since the last meeting. For example, one suggestion is to have a “tips” section that would use quotes from Eighth Circuit Clerk of Court Michael Gans and the various judges to address basic issues. The quotes would be drawn from past newsletter reports of continuing legal education presentations. Angela raised the issue of possibly needing technical changes to the web page to accommodate such a feature.

Director Jeremiah Morgan said a re-design of the web page didn’t really seem necessary. He did, however, raise the issue of whether the Association newsletter could appear as the “home page.” Craig said he would discuss the various technical issues with the person, at web host University of Arkansas Little Rock School of Law, who posts the minutes and newsletters and other information on the Association web site.

Jeremiah raised again the issue of a potential Association “mentoring” program aimed at attorneys handling their first Eighth Circuit appeals. Director Larry Friedman supported the usefulness of such a program, noting that he received numerous technical questions – for example, about appendix content – from colleagues. One issue is how to make first-time attorneys aware of the availability of such a program; for example, would the Eighth Circuit be willing to include a contact phone number in the information the clerk’s office sends out with each new appeal docketed? Director Diane Bratvold noted that the Association web site also could serve as an access point for a mentoring program. Jeremiah will contact Michael Gans to

get the Court's thoughts on such a program. Diane Bratvold will assist Jeremiah in preparing a more formal statement regarding how a mentoring program might work.

Craig reviewed the status of the two pending bylaws amendments discussed at previous meetings. Secretary Margaret Callahan noted that a revised version of a proposed bylaw regarding use of membership information was presented and favorably discussed at the April Board meeting but that no vote was taken due to concerns about proper notice and the existence of a quorum. Margaret noted that a proposed bylaw revision to allow the secretary and treasurer to serve consecutive terms also was discussed at the April meeting and that president-elect Tom Weaver had volunteered to revise the proposal to include a limit on the number of consecutive terms. Craig suggested that both bylaw proposals be held over for a future meeting and indicated that he would check regarding any special notice and voting requirements.

Director Doug Bahr suggested that the proposed bylaws amendments be posted on the Association web site, and Craig assigned this task to Margaret.

Craig noted that the Association currently has no new events under consideration. He noted that the Court would be holding a full "court week" in Omaha June 12-16, 2006.

Craig reported that the Judges seemed pleased with the April reception for Judge Morris Arnold, at the Arkansas-Little Rock Law School, co-sponsored by the Association. He said that the reception included comments by some members of the Law School faculty. Craig noted that related activities included a continuing legal education program at which Michael Gans and a panel of judges gave good tips, plus an argument session before UALR law students. Craig asked when the next newsletter would be published – likely somewhere between June 6 and June 14 – so he could timely provide a write-up, as promised, on Gans' continuing legal education presentation. Director Mark Marshall indicated that he had already submitted a write-up giving

the highlights of the judges' panel, and Margaret said Director Julie Cullen had promised a write-up about the reception itself.

Doug indicated that he would let Margaret know shortly if there would be a story available based on the March court sitting at the University of North Dakota.

Craig noted that he would not be available June 13, which would be the regular day for the next Association Board meeting. He proposed moving the meeting up to June 6, at 9:30 a.m. by telephone. Craig said he would send an e-mail to all board members and if enough were unavailable on June 6 he would move the meeting to June 13 and ask president-elect Tom Weaver to preside.

The meeting adjourned just after 10:00 a.m.