

MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

August 8, 2006

(by conference call)

Present: Craig Eichstadt (president); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Bob Rossiter (Neb.); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.).

Absent: Tom Weaver (president-elect); Tom Boyd (at-large); Julie Cullen (at-large); Jeffrey Ellis (E.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Diane Bratvold (Minn.); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Jeremiah Morgan (W.D. Mo.); Mark Marshall (S. Dak.); Krista Kester (past president).

Association President Craig Eichstadt called the meeting to order shortly about 9:40 a.m., noting the absence of a quorum. He suggested that those in attendance discuss the agenda items anyway, albeit with any necessary official action postponed.

The minutes of the June meeting, as previously circulated, drew no comment.

Treasurer Barry Pickens reported that he had discovered how the Association had come to have two taxpayer identification numbers and that he believed he had resolved certain confusion, with regard to the Association's nonprofit tax filings, caused by the multiple numbers. Barry said the government in original paperwork omitted a portion of the official name of the

Association and, upon correcting the Association name, issued a second identification number without notice to anyone with the Association. Barry said the current Association checking account balance is \$19,744.13 while the current balance in the certificate of deposit is \$23,555.64.

Craig said that membership chair Mark Marshall was unavailable because he was on a month-long sabbatical but that Mark's assistant reported 176 membership renewals with 144 members not yet having renewed. Mark's assistant noted that last year the Association sent non-renewing members an e-mail reminder in September and a letter, by regular mail, in December. Secretary Margaret Callahan and Director Doug Bahr noted previous Board discussions of the renewal process and a consensus in favor of a follow-up contact by regular mail. Margaret checked the minutes from recent Board meetings and pointed to the passage of a motion, at the June meeting, calling for membership follow-up by regular mail, with further contact by district directors as appropriate. Initial e-mail renewal notices this year were sent probably in mid-June, such that members have now had their notices for about two months. Doug said that members who have not yet renewed have probably by now erased or lost their initial renewal notices. The expectation is that Mark will proceed with the regular-mail follow-up soon, when he is back in the office and his schedule allows.

Craig reminded Board members generally of the two bylaws amendments under consideration. He noted that a consensus seems to have been reached for the amendment regarding use of member information, with language as set out in the April minutes. He noted that with regard to the proposed elimination of the ban on consecutive terms for the secretary and treasurer, the Board needs to decide whether to allow unlimited consecutive terms or whether to retain some limit, for example to two or three consecutive terms.

Craig reported no developments regarding possible revisions to the Association web site.

Craig called the Board's attention to a letter from Michael Gans to Director Jeremiah Morgan regarding the Association's proposed mentoring program. (The letter was attached to the meeting agenda.) Gans in the letter approved in general a draft letter of introduction for possible inclusion in the materials sent by the Court to attorneys newly admitted to the Circuit bar. Gans stated that the Court this year has been receiving about 50 applications for admission each month, with only 35 to 40 of those applications coming from attorneys in offices within the geographic area of the Eighth Circuit. Gans suggested that the Association could use a geographic limitation if necessary to keep the mentoring program to a manageable size.

Director Lajuana Counts reported that a panel of the Court will be sitting in Kansas City the week beginning October 16, 2006. The Board at its last meeting had discussed the possibility of sponsoring a CLE program or other function in conjunction with a future Court sitting in Kansas City. Lajuana stated that her employer – the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri – is interested in having a CLE in conjunction with the Court's October visit. A collaboration may be possible. Lajuana suggested the jury room at the Courthouse as a possible site for the CLE. Chief Judge Loken, Judges Gruender and Benton, and Senior Judge Lay will make up the panel at various times throughout the week. Craig reported that Director Tom Boyd, who is co-chair of the programs committee but was unable to participate in the Board meeting, had sent an e-mail indicating his availability to help with a program and noting that programs committee co-chair Alok Ahuja is based in Kansas City. The Kansas City Board members – Lajuana, Barry and Jeremiah – will contact Alok and Tom and start planning for a function in Kansas City in conjunction with the Court's October visit. Craig noted that Association functions in the past frequently have included receptions with the Judges, with law

firm sponsorship. Any formal vote necessary to authorize the Kansas City function will be taken when a quorum is available, either at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting as necessary.

The next regular Association Board meeting will be September 12, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. by telephone. Craig indicated he may not be available and, if not, will find someone to preside in his absence.

The meeting adjourned about 9:55 a.m.