

MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

September 12, 2006

(by conference call)

Present: Craig Eichstadt (president); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Tom Boyd (at-large); Julie Cullen (at-large); Jeffrey Ellis (E.D. Ark.); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Diane Bratvold (Minn.); Jeremiah Morgan (W.D. Mo.); Bob Rossiter (Neb.).

Absent: Tom Weaver (president-elect); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.); Mark Marshall (S. Dak.); 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 July and August meetings, as previously circulated.

Treasurer Barry Pickens reported essentially no change in the Association's financial accounts. He said that his law firm had advanced on behalf of the Association a \$10 corporate filing fee payable to the State of Missouri, and he requested reimbursement for that fee. Craig told Barry to make out a check for appropriate signatures.

Membership committee chair Mark Marshall was not available for the meeting, and Craig raised the issue of whether it was time yet for district directors to make contacts with members who have not yet renewed. Secretary Margaret Callahan noted that in preparing the newsletter

she reported nearly 250 members had renewed, up substantially from the 176 that had renewed as of the August meeting. Craig said he thought Mark after the August meeting had sent follow-up e-mail notices to members who had not yet renewed. Margaret stated that in using the membership list to circulate the newsletter, she noticed several directors had not yet renewed. Various directors admitted to being either late or still unpaid.

Director Angela Campbell reported that there were no developments on the possible modification or improvement of the Association web site. She said she had left a message but had not yet made contact with the individual at the UALR School of Law that works with the Association web site.

Director Jeremiah Morgan reported that the potential Association “mentoring” program, aimed at attorneys handling their first Eighth Circuit appeals, seemed to be a “go” with the Court. The next step would be to develop a list of Association members interested in participating as mentors.

In the absence of Director Lajuana Counts, Jeremiah reported on planning for a continuing legal education program in Kansas City when the Court sits there in October. Jeremiah reported that Eighth Circuit Clerk of Court Michael Gans and the three judges scheduled to sit in Kansas City all have agreed to participate. A local attorney will serve as moderator. Jeremiah said that the Court has suggested two possible days for the program and that the Court’s preferred day is Thursday October 19, although no final decision has been made. The planning committee still needs to obtain approval for CLE credit and address funding questions. The planning committee intends to seek contributions from Kansas City law firms to help with the post-CLE reception, and Jeremiah said he thought adequate funding for that purpose could be raised from the Kansas City directors’ own firms.

Jeremiah raised the issue of whether the CLE should be open to non-members of the Association and whether non-members should be charged a higher fee. Craig spoke in favor of that arrangement. Director Jeffrey Ellis noted that in her experience working with CLE programs in Arkansas, a higher non-member fee was standard. Director Julie Cullen suggested that the differential between the member and non-member fee could be in essence treated as “dues,” with non-members attending the program thus being enrolled as members. Barry wondered if the dues amount of \$35 would be too great a differential between the member and non-member fee for the program and would discourage non-members from attending. He noted the need to get out an announcement about the program soon.

Based on Barry’s estimate that the program would require about \$200 to \$300 in Association funding, Craig suggested that the Board consider a motion approving the general plan for the CLE program and authorizing the Kansas City planning committee to spend up to \$500 and use its discretion in setting the program fee. Such a motion was made, seconded and passed. The planning committee will keep Craig informed.

Craig turned the meeting to the issue of the e-mail request received from Association member Jim Layton for circulation to the Association membership of a brochure announcing an ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers seminar. A motion to approved Layton’s request passed.

Craig asked for other ideas for Association activities, such as possibly events at other Court sittings outside St. Louis. Margaret noted that while the Court had not committed to any sittings outside St. Louis beyond December, the Court likely will sit in Omaha again sometime next spring or summer. She noted that by then, it would have been two or three years since the Association had sponsored an event in Omaha. Others noted that the previous Omaha event did not involve a CLE program. Directors Bob Rossiter and Julie Cullen both indicated that they

had occasional contact with Judge Riley and would sound him out about the Court's interest in having the Association sponsor some function in Omaha in the spring.

Director Tom Kieklak reported that he had contacted the chambers of judge-to-be Bobby Shepherd and there did not seem to be any firm plans yet for a public investiture ceremony. Margaret indicated that the Association newsletter would want coverage of the event and noted that the Association had not had a role in other investiture ceremonies or the related receptions. Tom suggested that the Association might send a congratulatory letter.

Craig noted that the regularly scheduled date for the next Association Board meeting would be Tuesday October 10, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.