

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

On September 9, 2002, at 1:40 p.m., Michael E. Gans, the Clerk of the Court, welcomed a group of lawyers in Room 22.304 in the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri. They had gathered upon a call to organize a bar association for the Eighth Circuit.

Eric Magnuson of Minneapolis took the chair of the gathering. Attending were Jim Layton of Jefferson City, Missouri, Terry W. Schackmann and Dennis Owens, both of Kansas City, and from St. Louis, Tom Weaver, Jim Erwin, Mike Fagan, Mark Arnold, Beth Carver, and Mary Jane Lyle. (Owens took minutes.)

The purpose and structure of the new bar association were discussed. Eric Magnuson and Dennis Owens recommended using the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit as a model. Groups in the Seventh, Federal, and Tenth Circuits are now organizing with the Fifth Circuit association as their model.

There were sixteen accredited law schools within the seven states within the circuit. Several of their law reviews publish issues devoted to the Eighth Circuit. The University of Arkansas - Little Rock has voiced a particular interest in putting on a 8th Circuit appellate practice C.L.E. program. The new bar association could take on responsibility for the continued updating of the EIGHTH CIRCUIT APPELLATE PRACTICE MANUAL, published by the Minnesota State Bar Association.

There was suggestions to have a board of directors with representatives from each of the districts of the circuit, plus some at-large members and the officers. There are ten districts in our seven states. Lawyers outside the territory are welcome, too.

The Clerk's Office had sent e-mails to the 6,000 addresses in its records. About 60 responses were received at the time of the meeting.

A suggestion was made for our new association to meet with the Judicial Conference in odd years and with the Court *en banc* in even years. Our next meeting would be in January, 2003, when the Court has an *en banc* conference. The next judicial conference will be in St. Paul in July, 2003.

The plan is to construct a web page as soon as possible. This would include an membership application form.

There was no consensus on if there should be any dues until the January meeting. The amount of the due was also not decided.

Eric Magnuson called for volunteers for committees. Terry Schackmann, Jim Erwin, and Tom Weaver signed up for the Bylaw Committees. Others are invited to volunteer for this

committee. (Indicate your interest now.) Terry's firm will incorporate the organization. We will possibly seek 501(c)(3) status.

A search for "eighth circuit" on the internet produced a startling large number of groups. For instance, Abraham Lincoln practiced in the 8th judicial circuit of Illinois and that circuit today has an active bar association. Dennis Owens suggested that, in the style of a famous New York group, we call our new organization "The Association of the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit" and when appropriate use the informal term, "8th Circuit Bar."

Dennis Owens will chair the Nominating Committee. Beth Carver will serve with him. Others may volunteer for this committee. (Indicate your interest as soon as possible.) Their work will await the Bylaws specifying what the offices shall be.

Volunteers were also called for a Program Committee and Membership Committee. The latter would recruit members. Membership criteria: membership in good standing of the Bar of this Circuit Court. Membership Committee members will include Tom Weaver, Terry Schackmann, and Eric Magnuson. Others may volunteer for these committees now.

Eric Magnuson will be compiling the responses from those persons expressing an interest in membership.

Those attending provided the acting secretary with their names and email addresses which are incorporated in these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Owens

The Association of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, September 9, 2002

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Terry W. Schackmann	(816) 474-8100	tschackmann@spencerfane.com
Tom Weaver	(314) 342-8050	tweaver@armstrongteasdale.com
Jim Erwin	(314) 552-6032	jerwin@thompsoncoburn.com
Michael Fagan	(314) 539-6890	michael.fagan@usdoj.gov
Dennis Owens	(816) 474-3000	owensappeal@aol.com
Mark Arnold	(314) 480-1802	
Beth Carver	(314) 259-2121	eccarver@bryancave.com
Mary Jane Lyle	(314) 539-2180	maryjane.lyle@usdoj.gov
Eric Magnuson	(612) 340-7928	ejmagnuson@riderlaw.com
James Layton	(573) 751-3321	james.layton@mail.ago.state.mo.us