

Association of the Bar of the Eighth Circuit

Board Minutes: August 3, 2010

- 1. Called to Order:** D. Bratvold, President.
- 2. Roll Call:** K. Robinson, Secretary.
Present: Diane Bratvold; Jeremiah Morgan; Karl Robinson; John Baker; Mary Vasaly; Larry Friedman; Michael Gans; Matt Shepherd; Kevin Crass; Mark Salter; Ellen Suni; Brian Walsh.
Not Present: Barry Pickens; Angela Campbell; Julie Cullen; Dana Oxley; Jennifer Gilg; Doug Bahr.
- 3. Minutes of July Meeting:** Will be circulated prior to next Board meeting.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** No written report presented, as Julie Cullen not present.
- 5. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws.** M. Vasaly explained the proposed changes to Section 16.1 of the Bylaws that had been circulated prior to the Board meeting. It was agreed that the full Bylaws with the proposed amendments be circulated prior to the September Board meeting, and the Board will vote on the changes then.
- 6. Membership Renewal.** D. Bratvold reported that two additional judicial law clerks had joined the Association and we are working on having additional law clerks join the Association. The Association is also working with M. Gans to obtain corrected/updated email addresses for certain members to send renewal information to them.
- 7. Website Update.** D. Bratvold reported that improvements to the website have been implemented. There was a discussion of the recently sent automatic emails asking members to log in and complete their member profile. This profile will include email address and other contact information and also has options regarding whether the member's profile will be public or private. There was a discussion as to the particulars of implementing this part of the website. D. Bratvold also explained that the upcoming Judicial Conference will present an opportunity to inform members about the website and allow members to update their contact information. D. Bratvold also led a discussion regarding starting up the newsletter again and having this be distributed electronically.

8. Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, August 11-13, 2010, in Minneapolis: M. Gans reported that to date it appears that the Conference will be the best attended 8th Circuit Judicial Conference, with almost 500 individuals already registered. There was also discussion about having Board Members prepare summaries of the particular CLE sessions being offered during the Judicial Conference. Several Board Members volunteered to prepare such summaries, including: M. Gans will take photographs at the opening reception on Wednesday August 11 and M. Salter will write up a summary of the reception; B. Walsh will write a summary regarding the CLE on Social Networking and Other Evils of the Internet in Jury Trials scheduled for Thursday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m.; L. Friedman will write a summary of the CLE on Evidence in the 21st Century scheduled for August 12 at 10:45 a.m.; K. Crass will write a summary of the CLE on How Judges and Lawyers Interact Across the Bar scheduled for August 12 at 3:00 p.m.; M. Vasaly will write a summary of the CLE on Implicit Bias scheduled for August 12 at 4:00 p.m.; J. Morgan will write a summary of the discussion with Justice Alito scheduled for Friday, August 13 at 11:00 a.m. D. Bratvold encouraged those Board Members attending the Judicial Conference to come to the Thursday evening dinner and to RSVP to her assistant if they planned to attend. D. Bratvold reminded Board Members to volunteer to staff the Association's membership table during the Judicial Conference. M. Vasaly, J. Morgan and M. Gans all indicated they would assist in staffing the membership table.

9. Strategic Planning Committee: D. Bratvold led a discussion regarding the strategic plan, including the five objectives set forth on pages 3 through 6 of the strategic plan. There was also discussion regarding increasing membership. M. Gans noted that there are approximately 9,000 attorneys who are members of the Eighth Circuit Bar, although many of these lawyers join to handle a single appeal. M. Gans stated it would be outstanding that if the Association could increase membership to 1,000 attorneys. There was also a discussion of obtaining data from the Court regarding membership in the Eighth Circuit Bar and comparing this data to the Association's own membership so that we could target potential increased membership among geographic areas where Association membership is lacking. There was various brainstorming regarding ways to increase membership, including potential use of focus groups, having a judicial law clerk reunion, and other ideas. There was agreement to continue discussion regarding attempts to increase membership at the September Board meeting.

10. Other Business. Nothing.

*** Meeting Adjourned.