

Hearsay

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MSBA



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Greetings From The Chair

By: Joan M. Schulkers

As the bar year comes to an end and I step aside as Chair of the New Lawyers' Section, I have time to reflect on all that has happened this past year – and oh, what a great year this has been! Where do I begin?



I started this year with ambitious ideas, toying with the idea of implementing a number of new projects – none of which had ever been done before within our section. I first wanted to provide our members with a tangible benefit in the form of free CLE credits. We were able to provide four beneficial, and quite interesting, ethics and bias CLE's this year – with the help of remarkable speakers who presented to us without charge. Many thanks to Joanie Bilbehausen, Ken Jorgensen, and Neil Hamilton who took time out of their day to speak and present the CLE's.

We also implemented the KSTP Lawline project, where 10 attorneys visit the KSTP studio once a month for two hours and answer telephone calls from the public who have general legal questions. I am proud of this event, and its volunteers, particularly given the crisis in our legal services area for the economically disadvantaged. Many of the individuals were referred to the appropriate agency or provided simple advice.

Another ambitious idea I had was to disseminate four issues of the Hearsay publication this year. In the past, the Hearsay was sent out sporadically, more often than not, a circumstance of the substantial cost of mailing to our members. As emails have become the choice of communication, and have little-to-no cost, it was conceivable that I could send out more than one issue this year. This is the fourth issue in my year as Chair. My intent for the Hearsay was to provide a means of communication for all the affiliates, and non-affiliates, in Minnesota. I wanted to hear what they were doing, and in turn, I hoped that they wanted to hear what we were doing. Many new lawyers around the State now provide us with regular updates as to their activities. The Hearsay also provides a wonderful opportunity for members to publish substantive articles. I was fortunate that two people stepped forward to co-edit the publications this year. Many thanks to Erika Donner and Tricia Wherley for their work in editing the Hearsay.

Another enterprising idea I had was to visit each and every affiliate and non-affiliate in the state this year, either during one of their meetings or social events. I was able, however, to only visit Ramsey County, Hennepin County, and Mankato. I did meet some of the Duluth new lawyers at the State Bar Convention last week. My hope is that future chairs continue to visit our affiliates so that we may get to know one another.

There are many people that deserve much thanks for their contributions to this rewarding and successful bar year. A heartfelt thank you goes out specifically to Jason Kohlmeyer, Rebecca Rhoda Fisher, and Jamal Faleel, my fellow officers, who catered to my whims and lent their unending support. As my days as a new lawyer come to an end, I wish you all the best and hopefully our paths will meet again.

A Word From The Incoming Chair

By: Jason Kohlmeyer

Hello! Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Jason Kohlmeyer and I'm the incoming chair of the MSBA New Lawyers' Section. We have an exciting year coming up; one in which I hope to boost involvement and get some important items accomplished.

Let me be the first to ask you to consider applying for a liaison position to the Bar. What's a liaison position, you ask? Well, the MSBA is made up of Sections and Committees, for example the Criminal Law Section, Human Rights Committee, Animal Law Section, Family Law Section, etc. and we need good people to represent the New Lawyers at their meetings. The time commitment varies and really is what you make of it, but it is an excellent way in which to

get your feet wet in a substantive area of law. Thus, I'm inviting everyone who would like to get involved in the Bar and doesn't know where to begin, to look at the various sections and committees on the website and pick one or two you find interesting and then drop me an email at Kohlmeyer@manahanbluth.com. In just a few lines tell me what you are interested in. Appointments to the liaison positions will be in late August. This is an excellent way to get involved in the upcoming Bar year.

I look forward to working with all of you in a most exciting upcoming Bar year.

MSBA Restructuring Update

By: Joan M. Schulkers

I just wanted to let you know the significant change that is occurring in the structure of the Minnesota State Bar Association. The Board of Governors approved a restructuring that would eliminate the 8-member Executive Committee, the 80-member Board of Governors, 700-member House of Delegates, and the General Assembly, as we know it

today. In their place, will be a 14-member Council and an Assembly of 121 members. The New Lawyers will receive a seat on the Council, as well as an additional seat on the Assembly. The New Lawyers thankfully did not lose a voice in the restructuring. If you have any questions on the new composition, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Congratulations to Dan Gilchrist who received our very first Outstanding Achievement Award from the Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers' Section. Dan never failed to volunteer this year when our section needed someone to step forward and assume responsibility. Dan is also our Section's treasurer-elect. Congratulations to Dan!

The Attractive Nuisance Tour II

Rock For Charity

By: Craig Sandok, HCBA-NLS Chair-Elect

Get ready to rock. Last year, a close friend and I created a benefit concert to raise money for legal charities and named the event "The Attractive Nuisance Tour." The concert's hook was that each of the nine acts contained a local lawyer.

Despite that handicap, the performers were remarkable. The legal community's response to the event was profound; the event sold out (575 tickets) six weeks before the show. This year, The Attractive Nuisance Tour is back! On Friday evening, September 17th, at O'Gara's in St. Paul, you will have the opportunity to see some of your favorite bands from last year and many new acts. General admission tickets are available for only \$10 and special VIP Backstage Passes are available for a \$50 donation (all ticket purchases are tax deductible).

All of the proceeds will go to two worthy legal charities: The Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) and the Hennepin County Bar Foundation (HCBF). The event is sponsored, in part, by the Hennepin County Bar Association New Lawyers Section. In addition to providing seven hours of entertainment, last year's Attractive Nuisance Tour raised a net donation of over \$10,000 for charity. The money came from ticket sales, corporate sponsors, merchandise sales and a raffle. This year, the organizers of the event

hope to raise \$20,000 for their charities. Bowne, the world's largest financial printer and leading electronic filer with the SEC, has already signed on as the event's Hall of Fame level sponsor. This year's event will include headlining acts The Abdomen, The Road Racers, Darrin Rosha, So It Goes, Van Benson, Umbrella Bed and Candy. For our VIP ticket holders, we will also have two hours of acoustic performances by great acts including Incognito, a dinner buffet, several free drinks and other perks.

Nuisance Tour Founder and Co-Director Greg Wiley commented, "This year's event promises a lot of changes that should appeal to everyone in the legal community. We have added a silent auction and a 'rock star for a night' promotion in which the law schools will compete to have a member of their faculty join a band on stage. We will have great prizes to raffle. And don't forget about our bands – they are even better than last year." Raffle items will include gift certificates from local merchants and restaurants, roundtrip airline tickets on Sun Country Airlines and even a guitar autographed by Johnny Lang.

To learn more about The Attractive Nuisance Tour, how you or your business can sponsor the event, or to purchase tickets to the show, visit our website, www.attractivenuisancetour.org.

The Attractive Nuisance Tour™
2004

HCBA NLS V. RCBA NLS

First Annual Kickball Game

Members of the Hennepin County Bar Association and Ramsey County Bar Association New Lawyers' Sections met on Saturday, June 19, 2004, for their first annual kickball game. Thank you to Laura Hage, Ramsey County NLS, who organized this very fun event.

The New Lawyers' Sections battled it out for about an hour and a half and at first it looked like Ramsey County would win by a landslide. Not only did the Ramsey County players appear to be experienced and knowledgeable about the rules, but came with matching pink kickball tee-shirts. Hennepin County, on the other hand, had pretty much novice players with little-to-no under-

standing of the game or strategy.

Early on, Ramsey County established its dominance at the plate, by outscoring Hennepin County. However, by the bottom of the sixth inning, Hennepin County had got its game and the score was 16 to 8. Because Ramsey County's established supremacy (for at least flag football) is well established, they were not about to be losers. They made a terrific comeback and tied the game for a final score of 16 to 16.

It was a great day at the ballpark and we all look forward to our second annual kickball event next year!

Hennepin County Affiliate News

By: Kirsten Smith

What a fun and exciting Spring!

In April, the Hennepin County Bar Association – New Lawyers' Section sponsored our monthly "Breakfast with the Judges," where Judge Duffy and Judge Pihlaja put on a great presentation on Voir Dire. It is so nice to have the "inside scoop" on conducting an effective Voir Dire!

Our April community service project entailed cooking a meal for the Ronald McDonald for Kids Project. Many volunteers donated their evening to cooking and serving for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, which provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children who are receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals. The families are so grateful to have a hot meal served by smiling faces.

In April, we also had a joint happy hour at Solera with the MSBA and the RCBA, and it was a huge success. New lawyers from all over the state attended and there was plenty of free food, drinks and fabulous door prizes.

The HCBA-NLS members were just as energetic and enthusiastic in May. We started with a fabulous happy hour at the Dakota Jazz Club that was sponsored by Pat Carl and Associates and our community service project for May

was to cook a dinner for the Jeremiah Program. This program not only provides low-income housing for women and children, but provides life skills education as well. The women in the program are required to work, and attend life skills education classes. We prepared and provided the dinner so that women could focus on bettering their lives through education!

Our last Brown Bag CLE for this bar year was given by Roy S. Ginsburg. He gave an insightful presentation on "Marketing Professionally and Ethically." Our final Breakfast with the Judges occurred on May 13. Judge Graham gave a wonderful presentation, "Juvenile Law: What New Lawyers Should Know Before Making an Appearance."

While June is not over yet, we have been just as busy! We kicked off the ABA project – One Child One Lawyer – by providing free training for ten new lawyers to become advocates for children in the foster care system. This project has made a tremendous impact in the county by giving children a voice, and we are looking forward to helping in Hennepin County as well!

In June, we also teamed up with the MSBA-NLS and we shopped until we dropped! Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery and Youth Link are two Hennepin County

nonprofits that provide fabulous services to the community. The nursery, which offers free, short-term relief, is somewhere parents in Hennepin County can bring their children, ages newborn through six, when stress or crisis in their lives places their children at risk of abuse and neglect. The nursery keeps children safe, and offers programs to help parents resolve crises and work self-sufficiently. Youth Link is another fabulous program! It offers five core programs for homeless and at-risk youth. These five programs work together to support young people in their efforts to finish school, to gain the skills they need to find and keep work, and to find stable housing. Because, however, they are nonprofits, they are both in need of many volunteers to keep them running. We shopped for both organizations and donated hundreds of items. For Youth Link we provided essential items for setting up a person's first home such as alarm clocks and personal hygiene products. For the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, we provided diapers, formula, bathing supplies and batteries. Both organizations were ecstatic!

After being so busy doing community service work, we took a break and attended our annual tailgating party and outing to the Saints Game! The tickets for this event sold out before the game and we had a blast!!!

The HCBA-NLS elected our new officers and directors. We have a fabulous team set up for next year! We are proud to announce that Craig Sandok was elected Chair, Lori Semke was elected Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Moffitt was elected Secretary and Kirsten Smith was elected Treasurer. Scott Marks, Mark Horton, Stephanie Sarantopoulos, Cyrenthia Jordan and Paul Sarratori were elected for the directors the Social, Professionalism, CLE, Community Service and ABA/MSBA Liaison, respectively. Our official first meeting of the year will be at noon on August 11 at the HCBA offices. Everyone is welcome to attend and eat pizza!

All New Lawyers are also welcome to attend the HCBA NLS Party of the Year on July 24! It will be held at Craig Sandok's home and we will have a BBQ, cocktails, two bands and a DJ! Hope to see you there!

Mankato Affiliate News

By: Phillip Ebert

As the tenure of my chairship of the Mankato New Lawyers Section comes to an end, I would like to give an update on the transfer of the mantle of succession. Paul Grabitske will become the new Chair and we have named Luke Robinson as Vice-Chair.

As for past activities for our group, we made a decision that our group should have a social atmosphere, one in which young lawyers who go head-to-head in court every day can, once a month, get together for a drink and meal.

Therefore, we have monthly lunches and we also schedule a monthly after-work social hour. These have been well attended and are also an excellent way for attorneys who may not normally meet to say "hello." As always there is an open invitation to not only the 6th District Bar Association, but also to any young lawyers in southern Minnesota to attend our meetings. For more information please contact Paul Grabitske at 507-345-5500 or pgrabitske@mankatolaw.com.

Duluth Affiliate News

By: Jessica Durbin

Greetings from the Duluth New Lawyers Section!

Many of our members were involved with planning the Minnesota State Bar Association Convention, which was held in Duluth this year. Several of our members were involved with planning the Post-Presidents' Reception Social. The Social had a coffeehouse theme, and featured live performances by seven very talented local musicians,

including lawyers, paralegals, and legal secretaries. Several new lawyers, including Karl Sundquist and Dale Harris, were among the musicians who performed.

We also recently held an election in which Jessica Durbin was elected as our new President. Congratulations Jessica!

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