

MINUTES

MSBA PROBATE & TRUST LAW SECTION COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 2011

Meeting held at MSBA Offices
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Section Council Meeting

Members Present: Thomas Rauenhorst, Michael Sampson, Richard Hawke, Susan Link, Jennifer Lammers, Sonny Miller, Andrea Breckner, Thomas Woessner, Joseph Thiels, Ivory Umanah, and Scott Nelson.

Via telephone: Jo Ellen Doebbert

Others Present: Judge Quam and Bridget Logstrom Koci

1. Meeting called to order: 3:30 p.m.

2. New Business: Judge Quam was present to report to the Section Council about the new Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) program in Hennepin County. The ALJ program is a pilot project to help alleviate the work load in uncontested matters. Initially, there will be six attorneys acting as ALJ’s in guardianship/conservatorship matters, with possible expansion to other probate matters if the project is successful. Judge Quam will be looking for feedback from the practitioner community, as well as any observations you may hear from your clients. The program started with an orientation session for attorneys on September 2nd in the Hennepin County Probate Court, and the ALJ’s started their service the following week. The initial ALJ’s include Robert McLeod, Karen Tarrant, Ann O’Reilly, Marya Robben, Timothy Davis, and Terry Slye.

3. Treasurer’s Report: The financial statements for the month ending July 31st, 2011 were available for the meeting, and showed an ending balance of \$29,362.00. At the October meeting we will discuss the 2011-12 budget requests, including the expenses for the Uniform Trust Code Committee, the mock trial program, and civic education program.

4. Education Committee: Tom Woessner congratulated Susan Link on her presentation at the Salvation Army’s Estate and Charitable Gift Planning Institute on September 14, 2011. He also mentioned the luncheon at Leonard Street and Deindard scheduled for September 29th: “Digital Death: Can Estates or Heirs Gain Access to Online Accounts?” co-sponsored with the Business Law and Computer Law sections.

5. Legislation Committee: Peter Hatinen and Andrew Baese provided a written update, which is attached to these minutes.

6. **Federal Taxation Committee:** Richard Hawke provided a written update, which is attached to these minutes.
7. **Consumer Protection/Publications Committee:** No report.
8. **Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee:** No report.
9. **Greater Minnesota Involvement Committee:** No report.
10. **Technology Committee:** No report.
11. **Litigation Committee:** Bridget Logstrom Koci provided an update on their liaison with the Uniform Trust Code Committee, and reported planning for a luncheon presentation on December 8th at the offices of Dorsey and Whitney, highlighting litigation issues for probate and trust lawyers.
12. **Wills for Heroes Committee:** As of July, the program has prepared in excess of 5,000 plans for first responders, and continues to be fully booked for engagements through 2013. Information regarding the program can be accessed at the Minnesota State Bar Association website. The program has been working with the Southwestern Minnesota area to structure a chapter for the local volunteers. The program continues to need funds, and may seek an intern for development. Primary costs include paper, ink for the printers, mileage, and travel costs for the volunteers.
13. **Newsletter Committee:** The next newsletter is in process, and the editors are soliciting articles for publication.
14. **Old Business:** There will be a meeting of the Substitute Decision makers on November 17th.
15. **New Business:** The Council will look into providing a database of study groups, to help interested practitioners contact existing groups or form new ones.
16. **Upcoming Meetings:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th. The November 17th meeting will be moved to Tuesday, November 8th. Both meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the MSBA Offices.
17. **General Meeting Adjourned:** 4:30 p.m.