

MINUTES  
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 24, 2008

The following Board members were present: Honorable G. Barry Anderson, Honorable Paul H. Anderson, John B. Arnold, Bruce A. Beneke, Thomas H. Boyd, Annamarie A. Daley, Thomas S. Fraser, James T. Hale, Honorable Samuel Hanson, William M. Hart, David F. Herr, Bruce Jones, John D. Kelly, Patrick J. Kelly, Katherine L. MacKinnon, Katherine A. McBride, Honorable Helen M. Meyer, Mark B. Rotenberg, Allen I. Sacks, Ryan R. Sattler, James S. Simonson, Robin M. Wolpert, and Timothy Y. Wong. The following Advisors were in attendance: Barbara L. Golden and Jeffrey G. Shorba. Additionally, Honorary Board member Honorable Joan N. Ericksen, and Honorable Eric J. Magnuson, Chief Justice Designate of the Minnesota Supreme Court, were also present.

Justice Hanson provided welcoming comments and initiated introductions among the members of the Board, Advisors, and others in attendance.

Justice Hanson noted that the minutes from the initial meeting of the Board of Directors on February 26, 2008, had been duly circulated to all of the Board members, and indicated he would entertain a motion for approval of those minutes. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2008 Board meeting. Following discussion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Justice Hanson noted that Katherine L. MacKinnon had been inadvertently omitted from the original slate of individuals nominated to serve on the Board of Directors and that, pursuant to the formal agenda, he would entertain a motion for Ms. MacKinnon's election to the Board. A motion was duly made and seconded to elect Ms. MacKinnon to the Board. Following discussion, Ms. MacKinnon was unanimously elected to the Board.

Justice Hanson reported that the organization's applications for tax exempt status with the United States and the State of Minnesota have been submitted and are pending at this time.

Justice Hanson called upon the committee chairs and other representatives to provide reports on behalf of the various committees.

Mr. Hart reported on the activities of the Publications Committee. Mr. Hart reported that the book of memorials for all of the justices who have served on the Minnesota Supreme Court is complete and is going to press at this time. The initial press run will be 1,000 copies and the book should be available in early May. The cost of this project has been approximately \$25,000. The majority of these costs has been paid with funds from the Minnesota Supreme Court and a pledge of \$7,500 from the Dell Trust. Justice Hanson recognized the fine work by Mr. Hart and Ms. Golden on this project. The book will be formally presented to the Minnesota Supreme Court in a ceremony at the State Capitol on May 16, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Justice Paul Anderson reported on plans to simultaneously present the book to public libraries and law libraries throughout the State. The book was praised by members of the Board for its high quality and very fine content.

Justice Paul Anderson reported on behalf of the Events Committee. The Board reviewed the schedule of court related sesquicentennial events, which include the following: Minnesota Landmarks will be presenting a play entitled, *The Trial Reenactment of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis*, at Landmark Center in St. Paul on April 30 and May 1, 2008; the Minnesota Supreme Court will hold a hearing at Hopkins High School on May 8, 2008; former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Loren W. Collins (1838-1912) will reappear, by and through a reenactor, at the Minnesota Supreme Court in the State Capitol, to comment upon and answer questions about Minnesota's first 50 years on May 11, 2008; a Minnesota Supreme Court Law Clerk Reunion

Luncheon will take place on May 14, 2008; as noted above, the book of memorials, of the justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court entitled, *Testimony: Remembering Minnesota Supreme Court Justices*, will be formally presented to the Minnesota Supreme Court in ceremony at the State Capitol on May 16, 2008; there will be various activities on the State Capitol grounds taking place on May 17 and 18, 2008; and a presentation entitled, *The Minnesota State Constitution—150 Years Old and Still Working*, will take place during the Minnesota State Bar convention in Duluth on June 16, 2008. Justice Hanson inquired whether the Board would be supportive of funding the costs for the organization to have a booth at the State Capitol during the sesquicentennial events and activities that will take place on May 17 and 18, 2008. There was a motion duly made and seconded to approve expenditures of all necessary and reasonable costs to secure and operate such a booth at that time. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Thereafter, there was a call for volunteers to set up, operate, and take down the booth. The following individuals volunteered to assist with the booth: Annamarie A. Daley, Patrick J. Kelly, Katherine L. MacKinnon, James S. Simonson, Honorable G. Barry Anderson, Katherine A. McBride, William M. Hart, David F. Herr, Thomas H. Boyd, Barbara L. Golden, and Timothy Y. Wong. The secretary pro tem will provide Justice Paul Anderson with the list of the names of these volunteers with their respective contact information.

Sam Hanson provided a report on behalf of the Fundraising Committee. The organization will target the 25 largest law firms as part of the initial effort to raise funds. The firms will receive correspondence with enclosures regarding the organization and setting forth the request. Marianne Short has agreed to host a reception at Dorsey & Whitney for the leaders of these firms. This will be part of a staged plan to raise funds. Subsequent efforts will be made to contact potential corporate donors, individuals donors, and law schools. It was noted that the

fundraising plan at this point is intended to develop a base of funds to get the organization up and running. Mr. Hale pointed out that the organization will eventually need to get a more fulsome description of what its long-term plans are, what it will cost to achieve those plans, and the sources for funding those costs. Mr. Saeks pointed out that the organization will need to take care in its fundraising activities so as not to expose the Court or its members to any claims of impropriety. Mr. Sattler suggested that it may well be effective to strategically approach the large law firms and the individual attorneys in those firms in tandem for fundraising purposes. Mr. Herr observed that targeting the 25 largest firms may be viewed as unduly exclusive and those efforts should not leave out other law firms throughout the State that may be supportive of this organization. Inquiry was made as to whether other state supreme court historical societies have been able to sustain their operations through membership dues and, in this regard, it was suggested that it would be useful to look into developing that sort of model at this stage. An inquiry was also made as to the availability of bar foundation grants. Pat Kelly pointed out that the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Ramsey County Bar Association, among others, may provide potential sources for the foundation grants to support this organization's activities and projects. An inquiry was made as to whether there had been any discussion regarding expectations of contributions by Board members. Mr. Herr noted that, eventually, the organization could have sustaining or contributing member categories that could include Board members. Mr. Rotenberg acknowledged that all of these were very important and critical questions for future discussion, but that the Fundraising Committee had focused on putting together a short-term plan to garner seed money for the near term operations, and then will later set about planning for the next stage of fundraising. Mr. Hale agreed that this was the right

approach, but cautioned against inadvertently cutting off important future opportunities with current donors.

Tom Fraser reported on behalf of the Membership Committee, which has surveyed and gathered information regarding the dues structures and member offerings that are variously provided by the historical societies for the federal courts of appeal and some of the state supreme courts. The committee believes it will be necessary to get a better sense of where the organization is going before committing to a particular membership structure or approach. Among other things, the committee will have to consider and sort out the strategic coordination of membership with fundraising, as well as developing the offerings and timing of when the organization will roll out membership. Mr. Arnold further pointed out that the committee will need significant additional input from Finance Committee to get a better sense of budget forecasts and expectations.

David Herr reported on behalf of the Finance Committee, indicating that they have met and are prepared to move forward with the opening of a bank account when there are funds in hand. The committee has also discussed the need to develop a budget, as well as other requirements and needs regarding auditing and other functions.

Ms. McBride reported on behalf of the Education Committee, noting the prominent role of education in the organization's mission statement. The committee has met with Minnesota Historical Society personnel to learn more about resources and other critical factors and considerations. The committee has discussed a fairly ambitious project for Law Day of 2009 which would aspire to have a lawyer speak in every high school, and possibly every middle school as well, throughout the State. The committee would develop materials and other aids for

the speakers. Justice Meyer suggested that it may be appropriate to create an award that could be presented by this organization to one or more students in connection with History Day activities.

Justice Hanson confirmed that, overall there was general consensus by the Board that the organization's near term plans make sense and that, once we get through the activities that are planned for May with respect to the roll out of the book of judicial memorials and the sesquicentennial activities, the Board can review where the organization is at the next Board meeting in July. The Board was in full agreement with this approach.

Ms. McBride noted the importance of eventually developing a high quality website for the organization and its projects and activities. Ms. Daley reiterated that point, and pointed out the importance of getting such a website up and operational as soon as possible.

There being no further business for the organization at this time, the meeting was duly adjourned.

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