

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

President: Anne Schmiede
(715) 246-2211
aschmiede@doardrill.com

Vice-President: Bob Parsons
(715) 425-8161
robert@byegoff.com

Treasurer: Angela Olson
(715) 246-3800
aolson@bakke-norman.com

Secretary: Joel Schlitz
(715) 386-3200
joel.schlitz@mpl-s.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote a legal system whereby the rights and privileges of all persons are asserted and protected. We are dedicated to strengthening public trust in our legal system. We promote high ethical standards, civility, and professionalism amongst all attorneys. We encourage our members to serve the public. As officers of the court, we have an important role in assisting courts in the administration of justice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/13/08: Lunch with St. Croix County Judge's

2/15/08: Fourth Branch Judicial candidate forum – hosted by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce

3/27/08: Ethics CLE with dinner to follow

4/23/08: Lunch with Polk County Judges

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we mark the beginning of a new year, now is the time to reflect on what we accomplished in the past year and what improvements we might make in the upcoming year. As individuals, we are focused on goals of losing weight, saving more money or being nicer to others. As lawyers, many of us have goals of expanding our practice and improving our bottom line. However, as you reflect on the past and future of your careers, I would ask that you

remember to make room in your practice for pro bono work. As lawyers, we have the privilege of an education that allows us to offer direct and substantial assistance to the many people who lack this education. Unfortunately, many of the people who most desperately require our services are unable to afford them. It is our responsibility, as an association of committed lawyers, to offer help to these individuals. The officers of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association therefore remind each of you of the responsibility that accompanies the great privilege of being a lawyer and request that each one of you commit to at least one pro bono matter per year. We would also remind you to volunteer your time at the free legal clinic offered the second Monday of each month at the St. Croix County Government Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can contact Maureen Wegleitner at (715) 246-3800 to schedule a time to volunteer.

On October 31 and November 1, 2007, many of us had the opportunity to observe the Wisconsin Supreme Court as they heard oral arguments in Hudson as part of their "Justice on Wheels" program. They heard six cases over two days, with some of the oral arguments being conducted by local attorneys. It was a great opportunity for our local bar, as well as area citizens and school children, to observe our state's highest court in action. A reception was held in honor of the Supreme Court justices on the evening of October 31, which was well attended by local judges, lawyers and dignitaries.

Our annual holiday party, which returned to December this year, had good attendance and was a fun time. Many thanks to Warren Wood for making the arrangements for the music!

SCVBA members had lunch with Judge Wing on January 9, and, as always, it was an engaging and informative event. Judge Wing discussed his preference that litigants make a copy of exhibits for all parties and also a copy for him. He also noted that he would appreciate receiving a trial brief from each party in advance of any family court trial clarifying the facts and

issues to be addressed. Another topic of discussion was the success of the drug court in Pierce County.

Lunch with the St. Croix County judges is scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. at the St. Croix Government Center. They will be discussing practice tips and pointers, as well as issues facing the St. Croix County judiciary. Also mark your calendars for April 23, when we will be having lunch with the Polk County judges at the Polk County Justice Center.

On March 27, we will be hosting an ethics CLE. It will last approximately 2 ½ hours and will take place in the late afternoon, with dinner to follow. Further details will follow shortly.

Finally, as you all know, St. Croix County will be adding a fourth judge. Don't forget to vote at the primary election on February 19 and the general election on April 1. In the meantime, bundle up and stay warm!

- Anne Schmiede

HUDSON CHAMBER TO HOST 4TH BRANCH CANDIDATE FORUM

The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau will feature the candidates running for Circuit Court Judge - St. Croix County in a Candidate Forum scheduled from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Friday, February 15, 2008 at the Hudson Golf Club, located at 201 Carmichael Road.

This program will include remarks from each candidate, response to questions from the Chamber's Public Policy Committee and questions from attendees as time allows. Candidates Howard Cameron, Mark Gherty, Chuck Harris, Carol Law, and Ken Sortedahl will be in attendance.

Cost of the program is \$12.00 for Chamber members and \$15.00 for non-members and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 12, 2008. Seating is limited.

For a reservation form visit the Chamber website, www.hudsonwi.org, and click on the Events calendar and select the Judge Candidate Forum title for February 15. The Chamber can also be reached at (715) 386- 8411 or you can stop in the Chamber office at 502

2nd Street to register for the event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Checkbook Balance
(as of January 9, 2008):
\$5,759.20.

BRIEFLY FROM THE SECRETARY

Do you have e-mail? If you don't already, you can receive your next copy of *The Informant* via email. If you are interested, send your email address to Joel Schlitz at joel.schlitz@mpl-s.com.

The Informant is a publication of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association. Any statements or opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association