

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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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

9/18/08: SCVBA Golf Event

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With our meeting on May 28, we marked the end of another year of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association. At that meeting, we elected Christine Rasmussen of Doar Drill as the incoming secretary for the 2008-2009 year. Robert Parsons of Bye, Goff, Rohde & Skow will be President; Angela Olson of Bakke Norman will be Vice President; and Joel Schlitz of Mudge, Porter, Lundeen & Seguin will be Treasurer. I have enjoyed my tenure as an officer of the bar association and am thankful for the privilege, but am admittedly happy to be leaving the duties in the capable hands of the incoming officers.

In February, the SCVBA had lunch with the St. Croix County judges, who shared with us the plans for the new

judgeship in St. Croix County. Howard Cameron will start his training on August 1, 2008. The first two weeks of August will be devoted to a judicial mentorship program, and he will attend judicial college the last week of August. Judge Cameron will then start intake in the first week of September. Judge Needham will be moving to courtroom 2 and Judge Cameron will be in courtroom 4. As usual, this was one of the best-attended events of the year.

The SCVBA held a two-hour CLE at the Hudson Golf Club in March, followed by a dinner. The CLE, which is worth two ethics credits, was presented by Minnesota Mutual. The presenter discussed common pitfalls that lawyers must be wary of when accepting and handling cases and addressed ways to reduce exposure to malpractice claims. He focused on the importance of frequent communication with clients and of developing appropriate case management systems to ensure that we comply with all necessary

deadlines and stay on top of our files.

In April, the Polk County Judges Forum was held in Balsam Lake. The judges discussed the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council, which is a collaborative effort between several interested sectors, including the judges, the county board chair and representative lawyers, to discuss criminal justice issues. Recent topics of discussion have included the development of the new drug court and wider use of community service as punishment. The judges noted that they are looking for volunteers to help develop and coordinate this community service program. The volunteers should have substantial free time to devote to the project, as well as good people, organizational and management skills. Please notify the judges if you are aware of a possible candidate.

Polk County now has local rules available online. The judges commented that they are in the process of developing equivalent procedures to create more consistency between branches. Family Court Commissioner Bruce Anderson requested that the family law bar review the

local rules and advise him as to their thoughts and comments on the procedures for appointing a guardian ad litem in Polk County.

Many thanks to the SCVBA for allowing me to serve as an officer for the past four years. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you during this time and look forward to continued active involvement in our bar association. Stay posted for information from the incoming officers on our first meeting of the 2008-2009 year, which will likely take place in August. In the meantime, have a great summer!

- Anne Schmiege



TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Checkbook Balance
(as of May 23, 2008):
\$5,674.87.



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 Christine Rasmussen at crasmussen@doardrill.com.



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