

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

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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

10/30/08: SCVBA Happy Hour at Pier 500, Hudson, 5:30 p.m.

12/11/08: SCVBA Christmas Party at the Coachman Supper Club, Baldwin, 6:00 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me begin by saying thank you to our previous President, Anne Schmiede, for her four years of service as an officer of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association. I look forward to being your President, and hope to serve you as well as Anne and all other past Presidents.

The SCVBA officers met at the end of July to plan the events for the upcoming year. As in years past, we will have three bench and bar meetings with Judges from Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk counties. We are also planning at least one free CLE presentation. As for social events, we will have our annual Holiday

Party on Thursday December, 11 at the Coachman and we would like to end the year with a St. Paul Saints Game in May or June. (Note - We would be willing to replace the Saints game with a roast if anyone is brave enough to be the victim.) The officers realize that many of the events are the same year after year. It certainly makes planning easy, but we are open to any suggestions members may have for future meetings. If any SCVBA member has suggestions for an educational or social event, feel free to let an officer know.

Out of curiosity, SCVBA Treasurer Joel Schlitz, took a look at our bylaws. We were surprised to find that under the bylaws we are actually supposed to have five officers. The unfilled officer position is "Editor." The sole function of this position is to produce *The Informant* and distribute it among the members. I'm not sure when it happened, but putting together *The Informant* and distributing it has been the duty of the Secretary for a

number of years. We are accepting applications for unfulfilled position of Editor, but anticipating that none will be received. We plan to vote to amend the bylaws at the next SCVBA meeting to formally eliminate the office of Editor and amend the duties of the Secretary to include production and distribution of *The Informant*.

We have also had the several requests by law students to join the SCVBA. The current bylaws do not allow for student members. Under the current bylaws, members must be licensed attorneys living or practicing in Dunn, Pierce, Polk, or St. Croix counties. At the next meeting we will move for an amendment to the bylaws to allow for student membership. Under the proposed amendment, student members would be invited to attend all events; they would not pay annual dues, but will not have voting rights.

The bylaws also call for several standing committees; Pro Bono/Community Service; Bench/Bar; Social Events; Scholarship; and Law Day. To my knowledge, none of these committees exist. If they do exist and I don't know about them, then that probably makes me the worst President in the history of the SCVBA. At the next meeting we will discuss the

committees in more detail and decide whether we want to eliminate some or all of the committees, and if necessary appoint members to the committees.

As always, I welcome your input, feedback and ideas. I'm excited about the year ahead and hope you take advantage of and enjoy our programs and activities.

-Bob Parsons

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Staff Attorney - Wisconsin Judicare, Inc. is seeking a full-time staff attorney in the Wausau office located in Wausau, WI.

Submit resume, references and writing sample to: Rosemary Elbert, Executive Director Wisconsin Judicare, Inc., P.O. Box 6100, Wausau WI 54402-6100

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

A big thanks goes out to Dan Murray for making this years SCVBA golf event another great success. The four-person scramble was held on September 18th at Troy Burne. As always, the event was well attended and for once we did not see a drop of rain.

2008 Results:

Winning Team at 8 under par- Kristina Williamson, Lisa Wiebusch, Steve Goff, Bob Parsons

Long Putt Men – Rolv Slungaard

Long Putt Women – Christine Rasmussen

Long Drive Men – Steve Goff

Long Drive Women- Lisa Wiebusch

Closest-to-Pin Men – Mike Wagner

Closest-to-Pin Women – Lisa Wiebusch

Mark your calendars for next's years golf outing which will be Thursday September 17, 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Checkbook Balance (as of September 23, 2008): \$7,285.98.

LOCAL RULE 217.02(A)

On September 8, 2008, the St. Croix County judges adopted local rule 217.02(A), regarding the use of videoconferencing for initial appearances in criminal matters and for appearances

on warrants. The order is attached to this copy of *The Informant*.

**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.

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

ORDER APPROVING
LOCAL RULE 217.02(A)
ST. CROIX COUNTY LOCAL RULES

ORDER

The undersigned presiding judge for St. Croix County, Wisconsin, in an effort to promote an orderly and efficient system of court administration, hereby certifies that the attached Order Regarding the Use of Videoconferencing for Initial Appearances in Criminal Matters and for Appearances on Warrants was adopted by the Circuit Court Judges for St. Croix County on September 8, 2008. Said rule is adopted pursuant to §753.35, *Wis. Stats.*

This local rule has been approved by the Hon. Benjamin D. Proctor, Chief Judge for the 10th Judicial District and has an effective date of September 8, 2008.

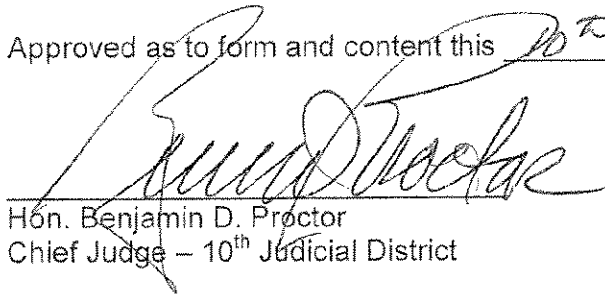
This rule shall be filed with the St. Croix County Clerk of Courts. Copies shall be forwarded to the secretary of the St. Croix County Bar Association, the 10th Judicial District Court Administrator, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the State Law Library, and Office of the Director of State Courts.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2008.



Hon. Scott R. Needham
Presiding Judge – St. Croix County Circuit Courts

Approved as to form and content this 10th day of September, 2008.



Hon. Benjamin D. Proctor
Chief Judge – 10th Judicial District

ORDER REGARDING THE USE OF
VIDEOCONFERENCING FOR INITIAL
APPEARANCES IN CRIMINAL MATTERS
AND FOR APPEARANCES ON WARRANTS

ORDER

WHEREAS, videoconferencing rules, procedures and policies for use of videoconferencing technology in courts in the State of Wisconsin were changed and adopted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, effective July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, a defendant in a criminal case is entitled to be physically present in the courtroom at all critical stages of the proceedings, including evidentiary hearings, trials or fact-finding hearings, plea hearings at which a plea of guilty or no contest, or an admission, will be offered, and sentencing or dispositional hearings; and

WHEREAS, the setting of bond / bail and the initial appearance in a criminal case in which a not guilty plea will be offered are not critical stages of the proceedings as defined by Subchapter III of Chapter 885, *Wis. Stats.*; and

WHEREAS, an appearance in court on a warrant issued by the court for failure to appear in a criminal case is not a critical stage of the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, an appearance in court on contempt warrants for failure to pay in a criminal and/or non-criminal case or provide financial information is not a critical stage of the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, effective August 1, 2008, Branch 4 of St. Croix County Circuit Courts was created thereby eliminating access to the St. Croix County jail by use of the secured elevator and holding cells for persons being held in custody for two of the County's four courtrooms; and

WHEREAS, public safety and courthouse security requires that an alternative to moving persons in custody through use of public hallways, elevators, and other areas without adequate security protections; and

WHEREAS, the videoconferencing technology used in St. Croix County Circuit Court proceedings meets the technical and operational standards of §885.54, *Wis. Stats.*;

NOW, THEREFORE, effective immediately, in Branches 2 and 4 St. Croix County Circuit Courts, all persons in the custody of the St. Croix County Sheriff and being held in jail and appearing for the setting of bail/ bond, initial appearances in criminal cases, appearances in criminal cases on warrants for

failure to pay or failure to appear, and appearances in civil court for failure to pay or submit financial information, shall appear from the St. Croix County jail via video conferencing pursuant to the videoconferencing rules in Subchapter III of Chapter 885, *Wis. Stats.*. In Branches 1 and 3, in the discretion of the Judge / Court Commissioner assigned to intake, persons appearing from jail as referenced above may appear from the St. Croix County jail via video conferencing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that counsel for any person appearing by use of videoconferencing as referenced above shall appear with the person from the St. Croix County jail in an area designated by the St. Croix County Sheriff and equipped with videoconferencing technology.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2008.

By the Court:



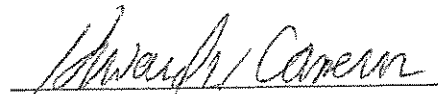
Hon. Eric J. Lundell
Branch 1



Hon. Edward F. Vlack
Branch 2



Hon. Scott R. Needham
Branch 3



Hon. Howard W. Cameron
Branch 4