

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

President: Jason Fey,
(715) 386-5551
jfey@heywoodandcari.com

Vice-President: Michelle Heckmann,
(715) 425-8180
mheckmann@hammarback-law.com

Treasurer: Anne Schmiede,
(715) 246-5978
annes@doardrillskow.com

Secretary: Bob Parsons,
(715) 425-8161
robert@byegoff.com

CALENDAR

11/09/05: November Meeting
Topic: How do the new bankruptcy laws affect your practice?

12/08/05: MARK YOUR CALENDERS!!!

The annual SCVBA Christmas party will be held on December 8th, 2005 at the Hudson Golf Club, 6:00 p.m.

RSVP fliers with meal selections will be in the mail soon.

02/22/05: Lunch with the St. Croix County Judges.
Noon to 1:00
St. Croix County Boardroom

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great turnout for our October bench and bar meeting with Judge Robert Wing. It's terrific to see attorneys from different areas attend and participate in our meeting. We will have two more bench and bar meetings, this winter with the St. Croix County Judges and this spring with the Polk County Judges. I am very hopeful that we will see continued outstanding attendance and participation at these meetings.

The holidays will be arriving shortly. This is a time for joy and celebration. This is a time to remember and thank family, friends, and those men and women who are protecting us with their

service in this country and abroad. This is a time for reflection. Try not to reflect on shortcomings or things you should have done better, but try to focus primarily on the positive things that you've accomplished this past year. Failure is final, success is never ending. How do you plan to make a positive impact next year and beyond?

God bless you all and Happy Holidays from the officers of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association.

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER LUNCH WITH JUDGE WING

Family Law - The court is setting a policy to have the parent(s) pay guardian ad litem fees up front. Judge Wing would like to reduce the dependence on the county for paying the guardian ad litem fees and have the county seek reimbursement from the parent(s). He mentioned that the Court will

not schedule a final hearing, unless the parent(s) pay the deposit in full. If an additional deposit is necessary, because a guardian ad litem has exhausted an initial deposit, then a letter should be sent to the parents and attorneys that an additional deposit is required. Further hearings will not be heard by the court if the additional deposit(s) are not paid.

The procedure for contested custody cases is generally as follows:

- (1) Mediation (may be waived, under limited circumstances)
- (2) Deposit made by parent(s).
- (3) Appointment of Guardian ad litem.
- (4) Schedule a court date.

Fax Rule (local rule) - If you fax a letter or court document to Judge Wing or the Clerk of Courts, please do not forward the original to the Court. The fax is sufficient. There are no new positions that will be added to the Clerk of Court's office, thus, efficiency is key when working with the current staff.

Traffic Citations - All citations will be downloaded to the Clerk of Courts using e-technology. Do not expect to receive a paper copy of the traffic citation. You will

need to contact the Clerk of Courts to receive a copy whether by paper or electronically.

OWI - No new jail is being built. Because of new policies, in 2003, the number of jail days for OWI dropped to 1,500. There can be deviations in jail time if the client goes into treatment.

The Pierce County Case Load is 1.458. There is not likely to be a new judge appointed any time soon. Judge Wing is participating in a study concerning judicial time and his caseload/workload.

Judge Wing has had to appoint private attorneys to handle criminal cases, because the public defenders office is turning clients down. This is creating an additional burden on the county, because the county not the state, is paying for this criminal defense.

Drug Court update - There were three initial subjects. These were all very tough cases, and the policy is to take individuals who are very tough cases and really need outside help to straighten out their lives. There are 3 phases of drug court, and two subjects have successfully made it to phase 3, the final phase. The other subject was expelled.

Drug court needs volunteers for the subjects, such as attorneys who could field questions in different areas of the law (i.e. family law) and counselors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDGE RICHARDS

Reserve Judge Conrad A. Richards was recently selected to serve on the Wisconsin Judicature Board of Directors.

The SCVBA would like to thank Judge Conrad for his dedicated service and congratulate him on his recent appointment to the Board of Directors.

FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to the following members who have paid their 2005-2006 dues:

Warren Wood,
Tom McCormick,
Tracy Tool,
Dean Rohde,
Chuck Bye,
Robert Parsons,
Steve Goff,
Brent Johnson,
Rose Allen,
Barry Lundeen,
Lisa Wiebusch,
Joel Porter,
Mike Waterman,
Peter Seguin,
Joel Skinner,

Carol Skinner,
Stephan Dunlap,
Bruce Anderson,
Charles White,
Dan Murray,
Rick Johnson,
Ardell Skow,
Don Fast,
Rolv Slungaard,
Martha Heidt,
Aaron Nelson,
Michael Brose,
Anne Schmiede,
Matthew Biegert,
Hon. Rod Smeltzer,
Michael Wagner,
Hon. Howard Cameron,
Tom Jacobson,
Kristina O'Boyle,
Ronald Siler,
Hendrik Van Dyk,
Annie Brose,
Gary Bakke,
Thomas Schumacher,
Timothy O'Brien,
Peter Reinhardt,
Timothy Scott,
Robert Walter,
David Schoenberger,
Daniel Steffen,
Brian Byrnes,
Robert Richardson,
Jennifer O'Neill,
Andrew Schutte,
Maureen Wegleitner,
Nicholas Vivian,

William Schembera,
Mark Gherty,
Susan Gherty,
Terrance Gherty,
Hugh Gwin,
William Radosevich,
Phil Todryk,
Donald Schwab,
Jamie Johnson,
James Remington,
Judy Remington,
Barbara Miller,
Robert Wall,
Ann Davey,
Timothy Heckmann,
Michelle Heckmann.

If you have not already done so, you can still send your 2005-2006 dues to SCVBA Treasurer Anne Schmiede (better late than never). Dues are \$30.00 for the year.

BRIEFLY FROM THE SECRETARY

Do you have e-mail? You can receive your next copy of *The Informant* via email. If you are interested, send your email address to Bob Parsons at robert@bvegoff.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.