

HIPLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting of January 31, 2006

Attendees:

Gordon Arnold	Stephen Koch	Steve Spears
Al Kimball	Richard Phillips	Charles Walker
Sarah Harris	Patty Meier	
Anthony Matheny	Norma Bennett	

Review/approval of Minutes of 9 November Meeting

Minutes were approved, subject to the correction to the attendee list to include Norma Bennett

Follow-up Items for November Meeting and/or Items handled by Email

The following follow-up items from the November meeting were reviewed; items voted on by email were confirmed by vote of the Board.

Fall Institute - President-Elect Kimball selected Stephen Koch to coordinate the 2006 Institute.
Judge's Dinner - Mayor White has agreed to speak at the Judge's Dinner to be held Wednesday February 22 at the Four Seasons Hotel. The Board approved, by email, a ticket price of \$100.

Amicus Committee - The committee's recommendation not to file a brief on the Labcorp certified question was endorsed by the Board by email.

Giles Rich Moot Court Competition - Greg Duffy's nomination to be chair for 2006 event was confirmed.

2006 HIPLA Golf Tournament Planning - The planning committee selected Thursday, May 11 at Herman Park.

Calender of Upcoming Activities:

Luncheon - Tuesday, February 9 at Rainbow Lodge
Happy Hour, Thursday, February 16 at the Plaza Club
Judge's Dinner - Wednesday, February 22 at the Four Seasons
Giles Rich Moot Court - March 10-12
Annual Meeting & Luncheon, March 31
HIPLA/Law School Joint Happy Hour - April 5 (proposed)
Golf Tournament - Thursday, May 11 at Herman Park

Treasurer's Report

The bank account at year-end 2005 had \$177K. The bank account on the date of the meeting had \$185K. It was noted that the payment to U. of H. for its share of the Fall Institute proceeds had not yet been made.

Fall Institute Summary

The planning session for the 2006 Fall Institute will be held February 18 at the offices of Bracewell and Giuliani. Approximately twenty members have accepted invitations to attend, with invitations to others still outstanding without responses.

The question of whether a decision on a contract for future Institutes would soon be needed. It was noted that 2006-2008 Institutes are committed to the Moody Gardens, but that the usual practice is to have the next three institutes (excluding the present year's event) under contract. Given the hurricane cancellation risk at the Galveston location, the question of moving to a different location should be

considered, with Del Lago, the Woodlands, and South Shore Harbor/Kemah all suggested. After discussion, S. Koch was tasked to discuss the subject with Paul Janicke and revert back to the Board.

Judge's Dinner Planning

Al Kimball noted that Mayor White will speak but not attend the dinner.

The request by a local law firm to sponsor a table was discussed. Consistent with past practice, and HIPLA understanding of judge's preferences, table sponsorship will not be solicited or allowed.

A discussion was held regarding use of funds from the Judge's Dinner to fund the HIPLA student fellowship. Past discussion regarding the student fellowship have focused on the difficult HIPLA has had receiving a sufficient number of fellowship applications from qualified applicants. Anthony Matheny agreed to coordinate a discussion between Craig Lundell, the coordinator of the fellowship program, and Carey Jordan, the law school liaison committee chair. If possible, a table announcement/information material could be made available on the tables at the Dinner. However, the specifically agreed task is to increase the communication between the schools and HIPLA to increase the likelihood of receiving fellowship applications.

Giles Rich Moot Court Competition

Committee members, in addition to chair Greg Duffy, include Carey Jordan, Jason John, Tara Williams, Charles Thomasian, and Vidya Bala. An email is being prepared for circulation to the membership in the first week of February. The Friday night happy hour/reception will be at Mingalone's.

AIPLA Road Show Follow-up discussion

As followup to prior meeting's consideration of whether HIPLA should be a sponsor for the June 9 AIPLA "road show" in Houston, Patty Meier reviewed further information provided by AIPLA. The discussion focused on whether there was benefit to the possibility that sponsorship might give HIPLA a broader base to expand its reputation, whether a sponsorship listing on AIPLA website or recognition at the luncheon doesn't appear to be worth much, and whether there would be benefit to try to tie sponsorship to the annual membership drive/renewal period.

The Board decided that there was no sufficient justification for HIPLA to sponsor the event.

New Business

Policy regarding remembrance notices

It was decided to alter the previous established policy, as follows: Remembrance announcements and informational emails based on information provided by the family and/or immediate colleagues of a member will be circulated by email, with text and decisionmaking to be made by the Secretary in consultation with the President.

This policy will be placed on the website for future reference.

Update of Mailing List Policy

The Mailing List Policy (<http://www.hipla.org/list.html>) was reviewed, as a result of a recent law firm request. No change in the policy will be made, except that event sponsors will be allowed to prepare an invitation, with HIPLA distribution, for the sponsored event (e.g happy hour), and event sponsors will be allowed to have advertising material available at the sponsored event.

Proposal to sponsor happy hour jointly with local law schools

The proposed joint HIPLA-Houston law school happy hour was endorsed. HIPLA would collaborate with all 3 law schools for a student happy hour to be held on UH's campus on April 5, 2006 starting at 6:00 or 6:30. The intention is to start a tradition which will be rotated between the schools in subsequent years. The breakdown of school contribution towards the event would be: UH - \$1,000, So.

TX - \$300, TSU - \$150. HIPLA would agree to match the schools' contributions and pick up the remaining costs, estimated to be \$1,000 - \$1500.

Request to publicize Baker-Botts lecture on HIPLA website

The Board noted that the lecture, which is attributed to both U. of H., and Baker Botts, is a slightly different request than usual, as HIPLA usually does not advertise events with law firm affiliation. After a discussion which focused on the U. of H. role in the event, and the speaker (Judge Gajarsa) it was decided to allow the announcement to be placed on the website and a broadcast email to be sent.

Proposal for HIPLA Newsletter (forwarded to long-range planning committee)

The HIPLA newsletter proposal received from member Andrea Tran was referred to the long-range planning committee. It was noted that a new email announcement/website support coordinate would be needed by the Board commencing in April; President-Elect Kimball will consider.

Request for meeting, by member resident in Mexico

It was suggested that a Mexican resident and HIPLA member's request to meet with a Board member is replied to by suggestion that the event calendar be circulated to the member and that he meet with members at a regularly scheduled event.

Request for listing/advertisement

The response to a request by a partner with responsibility for Trademark and other IP matters with the firm of George Walton Payne & Co. in Barbados be responded to (1) that we do not take listings or advertisements, but that (2) the suggestion be made that a sponsorship opportunity might be available for the Fall Institute.

Other New Business

President-Elect Kimball proposed that a new office of Vice-President be established, as a ladder position to President-Elect, and then subsequently to President and Past President. The discussion focused on the fact that most other organizations similar to HIPLA use that structure to increase the long-term organizational memory and executive stability of the organization. The proposal was passed and a new bylaws draft will be prepared, confirmed by email, and voted upon at the next meeting, in February.

Patty Meier closed a discussion at the prior meeting regarding the State Bar IP Section's consideration to reduce the amount of its dues. The section determined that 2-3 times the annual expenditures was a typical amount to be retained in available funds for organizations similar to the Section, which was consistent with the Section's funds. Sharon Israel also has coordinated an effort to provide \$2500 for an ABA-led effort.

Gordon Arnold indicated that the nominating committee for next year's Board is one member short of being completely identified.

Steve Koch noted that the process under which membership payments by check are taken was not efficiently working due to delays in processing by Conklin Hruzek. A revised process, based on the experience that few HIPLA-submitted checks do not clear, will be drafted and implemented by the Treasurer for the upcoming Board year.

Steve Koch also noted that a prior decision to allow student to attend luncheons at one-half price had not been implemented on the website and that correction will be made.