



# HOUSTON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES HIPLA BOARD MEETING MAY 22, 2007

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### HIPLA Liaison to National IP Associations

PATRICIA MEIER, CONOCOPHILLIPS  
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Those in attendance –

Paul Morico  
Marcella Watkins  
Anthony Matheny  
Jennifer Adamson  
Michael Locklar  
Pam McCollough  
Randy Furlong  
Al Riddle  
Joe Beauchamp  
Steve Spears

### 1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Marcella Watkins moved to approve the minutes. Randy Furlong seconded. All were in favor.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Adamson reported that there are no outstanding invoices and HIPLA has \$183,747.44 in its account.

### 3. Committee Reports

#### a. Fall Institute – Al Riddle

Al reported that all of the speakers except 1 for ethics and the keynote speaker have agreed to speak at the Institute. Al hoped the keynote speaker would be signed up shortly. Al further reported that UH agreed that the Fall Institute should be held at Moody Gardens in 2009 and 2010, so Al will review the contracts proposed by Moody Gardens and will forward them to Paul Morico for signature. Al also reported that he will follow-up with sponsors for the Institute. CPI has already agreed to be a sponsor for the first time.

b. Inventor of the Year – Randy Furlong

Randy reported that there were 2 very well qualified nominations and that the Committee would be meeting the week of May 28, 2007 to make its decision.

c. Long Range Planning – Steve Koch

Steve was unable to attend the meeting, so no report was given.

d. Entertainment – Joe Beauchamp

Joe reported that the HIPLA golf tournament had about 90 people total and everything went off without any problems. Joe also reported that there would likely be a happy hour in late July or August. Sponsors want to have the happy hour. Joe suggested, and everyone agreed, that students from the area law schools should also be invited.

h. Meeting Arrangements/Program – Paul Morico on behalf of  
Shawn Foster

Paul reported that based on previous luncheons, subsidizing the cost of the luncheons was insignificant. Therefore, HIPLA would continue with subsidizing the cost of the luncheons by capping the cost to members at \$50.00. Paul also reported that the May luncheon would have .75 CLE hours of ethics and that there HIPLA normally does not have a luncheon in either July or August; however, Shawn has already lined up a number of speakers for a number of future luncheons.

e. Amicus – Michael Locklar

Michael reported that the HIPLA Amicus Committee decided that HIPLA should not file a brief in the Sandisk v. ST Microelectronics case. Michael suggested that the Amicus Committee put together standards as to the types of cases HIPLA may get involved in as well as how to submit requests to HIPLA and what information is needed by HIPLA to make a decision. The standards could be based on those of other organizations such as AIPLA & the Federal Circuit Bar Association. All agreed with Michael's suggestion.

f. Website Overhaul – Anthony Matheny

Anthony reported that the ad hoc committee of Marcella Watkins, Linda Stokley, Michael Locklar, Chris Shield and Anthony Matheny met and discussed numerous ways to update and reorganize the HIPLA website. These proposed changes were discussed and it was decided that Chris Shield be the person in charge of meeting with various website programmers to get more information as to cost and services that they can provide and he will report his findings at the next Board meeting.

The ad hoc committee also discussed the redesign of the HIPLA logo. It was decided that an announcement would be made at the June luncheon, with a follow-up e-mail from Anthony, informing the membership that the logo would be redesigned and requesting the membership to submit their designs as part of a contest. The winner of the design contest would receive 1 or 2 free luncheons.

In the hope that more people will participate in the contest, it was decided by the Board that the contest be “open” for only a short period of time, e.g., 5-6 weeks, and that a decision on the winner be made by the Board in August, with an announcement of the winner at the September luncheon. The new Logo could then be unveiled at the Fall Institute.

g. Law School Scholarship Fund/Fellowships – Steve Spears

Steve reported that he talked with the three area law schools and all of them were very interested in HIPLA providing fellowships/scholarships, however, all three were unsure about the issue of the ABA. TSU informed Steve that if an internship is required before the student can receive the scholarship, then it saw no problem. UH and South Texas were more concerned. The law schools were going to investigate further and Steve would follow-up.

The Board also discussed various different options for the fellowships and scholarships. One concern discussed was that HIPLA did not want to undermine the Fellowships in favor of the Scholarships. Steve proposed forming an ad hoc committee to discuss options to explore (1) criteria of person awarded scholarship; (2) whether the recipient must be qualified to become a patent attorney; (3) technical qualifications; (4) whether the recipient must be registered for or have taken certain courses; (5) whether financial aid should be taken into consideration; (6) academic performance requirements; (7) amount; (8) whether scholarship would be yearly, by semester, or by some other period of time; and (9) number of scholarships/fellowships per year. It was further discussed that the Board would likely have to determine, and possibly put a cap on, the total amount awarded each year for all fellowships/scholarships.

h. National IP Law Assoc. Report – Paul Morico on behalf of Patty Meier

Paul reported that Patty had met with AIPLA representatives who informed her that AIPLA was considering having “regional” meetings for the smaller IP states and that AIPLA was likely going to be providing more video CLEs and possibly providing quarterly e-mail updates on a regional basis.

4. Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held June 26, 2007 at 5:00 pm.

6. New Business

None

7. Old Business

None

8. On motion by Anthony, seconded by Marcella, the Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.