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HIPLA Board Meeting Minutes May 26, 2009

In Attendance:

Al Riddle
Marcella Watkins
Anthony Matheny
Howard Speight
Georgiana Witt Braden
Joe Beauchamp
Shawn Foster
Elizabeth King
Ted Ro
Luke Culpepper
Jeremy Welch
Carey Jordan
Kena Taylor

1. Al Riddle called the meeting to order. Marcella moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the April 21, 2009 meeting. All approved.

2. Treasurer's Report
a. Financial Report

The current account balance for HIPLA is \$123,368.86. After the clearance of several checks, the resulting balance will be **?**.

b. Accounting Firm

We discussed the fact that we can not properly budget expenses for our accounting firm when they only send us a bill every 3-6 years for services. Al also discussed the fact that when he was treasurer he recalled paying for their services so the bill that was paid last year, should not have covered the past 6 years.

c. 2009 Budget

For 2009 budget we still have the following Action Item:

ACTION ITEM: Stephen Koch will draft of list of each HIPLA event and the person responsible, so they are aware of the budget and will manage the cost of each event to stay within the budget.

3. Old Business

a. Golf Tournament

Luke Culpepper spearheaded this event, which was a success and hosted 74 players. The tournament went slightly over budget. Initially, it had been budgeted for 6 drinks per person but we ended up spending 8.5 drinks per person for a total of \$315.35 over budget. Additionally, due to some technical difficulties with the website, several members were overcharged for their entry fees. After we reimburse them the overage, then we will have a higher over-budget total.

b. CAFC Visit Update

Stephen and Al Riddle are met with Professors Janicke and Vetter last week to discuss the upcoming visit and judges' dinner.

There was a discussion of reaching out to the local federal bar association to include them in our invitations to the judges' dinner. However, we need to determine exactly who and what group to contact to ensure that we invite those who would be interested in attending.

There was also a discussion of the CLE panel. Prof. Janicke researched which Houston lawyers had presented multiple arguments to the CAFC in the past two years and the only two lawyers were both under 45. One lawyer is Susan Knoll. Prof. Vetter is researching non-Houston based academicians who would be appropriate to give presentations. The CLE will likely be short presentations on very broad topics (i.e., 'How to improve appellate advocacy') followed by a panel discussion on the topics.

Marcella pointed out that we need to distinguish between those we invite and those we comp. We comp all judges. Anthony also reminded the board that Judge Atlas has requested personal phone calls inviting the judges to these types of events.

c. Inventor of the Year Award

Kena Taylor discussed the Inventor of the Year committee's selections for Inventor of the Year. Specifically, they wanted to give the award to 2 individuals and "recognize" a third individual. The reason is because all 3 people are listed on several patents and all 3 deserve the award but one had moved back to India and would not be available. After much discussion, the board decided that all three should be treated equally and all three should receive a gift plus a plaque recognizing them as Co-Inventors of the Year. Ms. Taylor then suggested that HIPLA award a

bottle of wine to the person who nominated the Inventor of the Year to both encourage people to nominate inventors and to recognize the amount of effort it takes to complete the nominating forms.

It was also discussed that the committee should give gift cards to the award recipients and not ask the individuals what they want as a gift. The board approved three (3) \$200.00 visa or amex gift cards plus 3 plaques (at approximately \$75/piece) and 1 bottle of wine.

d. 2009 Monthly Lunches

i. Speakers for lunch

Speakers are set for the rest of year except for November. The individual originally slated for November was actually a law student and the Texas does not approve of law students giving presentations for CLE credit.

A discussion followed regarding whether to have a lunch in November or to skip it because of the Judges' dinner being in November. Shawn reminded the board that we were not having a lunch in October because we were hosting the Institute in October so that would be two months without a lunch. Shawn was then tasked with looking into whether we could get another speaker for late October and whether we should have a lunch at that time.

Vidya was contact by some one at Fulbright whose wife if the chief of staff for Congressman Ted Poe. Congressman Poe serves on the judicial committee in the US House and would like to meet with local IP attorney to discuss a beta test for a special patent court. Shawn and Marcella suggested that we may need an ad hoc committee to discuss this issue.

ii. A/V equipment

Vidya Bala is still researching options for reducing costs associated with the monthly lunches: 1) purchase or borrow the A/V equipment; 2) have students pay for all or some of their lunch; and 3) choose less expensive restaurants for the lunches.

ACTION ITEM: Vidya Bala was tasked with investigating the issue of the A/V equipment further and reporting back to the Board.

iii. Lunch Schedule on Calendar

Georgianna Braden will list the lunch schedule on the website calendar.

ACTION ITEM: Georgianna will purchase the license, get the program, populate the calendar, and upload it to the HIPLA website.

e. Tax Exempt Status

Georgianna researched the issue and questioned our accountant. HIPLA qualifies as tax-exempt under federal regulations so that we do not pay income tax. However, under Texas law, HIPLA does not qualify as tax exempt for the purposes of avoiding sales tax.

f. Fall Institute

No formal report.

Anthony is looking at other locations for the institute and is putting together a list of potential locations. Anthony and Georgianna will coordinate putting together a survey to the membership on where they would go or where they would prefer to have the institute.

4. New Business

a. Membership Renewals

We need to prepare emails to the membership to remind them to renew their memberships and to do so in bulk. Marcella will coordinate with Georgianna regarding admin access to the website.

b. Supreme Court and In re Bilski

On May 28th the Supreme Court will have a teleconference to discuss whether they will take the appeal of In re Bilski

Marcella moved to close the meeting, Georgianna seconded the motion, and all approved.

