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HIPLA Board Meeting Minutes June 23, 2009

In Attendance:

Al Riddle
Anthony Matheny
Joe Beauchamp
Elizabeth King
Ted Ro
Carey Jordan
Stephen Koch
Chris Shield
Mike Locklar
Steve Spears

1. Steve Koch called the meeting to order. Subject to typos which Al and Steve have and will forward to Georgianna, Al Riddle moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the May meeting, Elizabeth seconded and all approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial Report

The current account balance for HIPLA is \$130,536.40, deposits in transit total \$1450, and outstanding checks total \$6736.17. Cash assets taking into account those items cash assets total \$125,250.23. Howard will present a final golf tournament financial summary at the next meeting.

b. 2009 Budget

Steve is working the following 2009 budget Action Item:

ACTION ITEM: Stephen Koch will draft a list of each HIPLA event and the person

responsible, so they are aware of and will manage the cost of each event to stay within the budget.

3. Old Business

a. CAFC Visit Update

Al Riddle had provided to Steve and UH a list of action items following the Board's discussion last month and the meeting he and Steve Koch had with Professors Janicke and Vetter prior to the board meeting. Steve has provided Al with the contact information for the Houstonian. Al has contacted Marcella to collect the documentation from the last Judges dinner in 2007. Al and Steve will meet to put together a clear timetable of issues/decisions that need to be made to ensure the visit goes smoothly.

Al will discuss with Paul Janicke the identity of the judges that will be invited to the dinner and Al will report back to the Board.

Steve will check his notes and if necessary with the Clerk of the CAFC to determine which bar organization is hosting the Court on the Monday night of the week of the visit. It is unclear whether it is the Federal Bar Association or the Federal Circuit Bar Association.

b. Inventor of the Year Award

Steve Koch reported that none of the inventors who were to be honored at this week's luncheon are able to attend and that the nominator, Natalie Wright, plans to present a brief summary of the technology. One or more of the inventors hoped to be asked to attend in August.

This information raised significant concerns with the Board and a long discussion followed. Steve was tasked with getting back with Vidya and Natalie to get more information on how this outcome resulted and to inquire if there was any way at least one inventor could be persuaded to attend the lunch. The Board ultimately agreed that no changes at this late date should be made for this week's luncheon. The Board also made the following decisions: (1) There is no

interest in hearing from the inventors at a future luncheon, with the possible exception – which the Board would want to make a decision on – if there is no planned speaker for the August lunch; (2) future nominees must agree to attend the annual luncheon on the date specified, with the only exception being late rising personal emergencies; (3) the luncheon date and venue for the inventor’s luncheon will have to be specified farther in advance and that date made available to the selection committee; and (4) the selection committee needs to make clear that the award is a two-way commitment by both HIPLA and the nominated inventors.

Regarding other luncheon matters:

A/V equipment

Vidya Bala is still researching the following action item.

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

Lunch Schedule on Calendar

Georgianna Braden is working the following action item.

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

d. Fall Institute

Mike Locklar reported that most speakers are lined up and plans proceed on schedule, except that the key note speaker, the PTO commissioner nominee, has declined to participate, on the basis that he does not think that his nomination will be approved in time. Mike and Paul Janicke are working alternate options. Two sponsorship opportunities remain open. The brochure will go to press in the near future.

The plan for determining whether an alternate venue for the Fall Institute is as follows: (1) Anthony has canvassed 5-6 Houston area venues, (2) More specific questions regarding alternate venues will be put on this year’s attendee assessment form, (3) the membership

will be surveyed by email after this year's Fall Institute to determine in particular why those who did not attend opted not to do so, and whether they would attend at a Houston venue, (4) Anthony and Georgianna will then consolidate the data, prioritize the possible alternate venues by cost/interest, and review with the Board and Paul Janicke.

4. New Business

a. Membership Renewals

Steve sent out a membership renewal reminder. Several questions arose from members: (1) one member indicated he had recently joined (within a week or ten days) and wanted to know whether he had to pay again so soon – the Board's past informal practice of granting such members full membership for the upcoming year will be renewed, but only to the extent that the membership payment was made in the last 2-3 months of the membership year; and (2) Steve will work with the webmaster to get the begin and end dates of the membership year more clear on the website.

b. Supreme Court and In re Bilski

Steve Spears reported that the amicus committee recommended a brief be prepared answering yes to both certiorari questions. The structure of the brief would be to focus on the problems raised by the approach taken by the Federal Circuit, and transition to a recommendation that the Court's Diamond v. Diehr approach be the continued standard. Howard Speight would draft the brief. Upon the motion of Anthony Matheny and the second of Chris Shield, the Board approved the drafting of the brief, with a target draft completion date of July 10, two weeks before the submittal deadline.

c. Bar Leaders Luncheon

Al Riddle attended the quarterly Bar Leaders Luncheon meeting sponsored by the Houston Bar Association. The meetings are held to ensure all local Bar Associations know of the activities of other local bar associations, both for professional interest and to attempt to avoid overlapping scheduling of events. Steve

will formally notify the HBA of the dates of the Fall Institute and the CAFC Judges visit to get both on the HBA calendar, which is a service the HBA offers to attendees of the luncheon.

Carey Jordan moved to close the meeting, Chris seconded the motion, and all approved.