

HOMER S. BROWN LAW ASSOCIATION

SUBMITTED BY: Paul A. Ellis, Jr.

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 22, 2007, requesting a brief outline of events and activities conducted by the HSBLA over the prior year, and our plans over the course of the next year.

The HSBLA membership recently completed elections during a general membership meeting. Over the course of the past year, we have recruited several new (and active) members, including several law students. Alliances have been strategically formed with firms and organizations, including the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Allegheny County Bar Association, PNC Bank, Burns White & Hickton, and individual members of the legal community. On May 2, 2006, a significant collaborative agreement was voted on and approved by the ACBA Board of Governors. These partnerships have raised the profile of the HSBLA and generated additional opportunities for increased programming, exposure and growth. We have formed new committees, created a new HSBLA membership application and letterhead, and amended our by-laws. We have strengthened our mentoring relationships with the law schools at the University of Pittsburgh (PITT) and Duquesne University, and are implementing a new program with PITT pertaining to their undergraduate students. Under the current leadership of the Executive Board, the events and programs hosted and sponsored by the HSBLA (CLE program on Mortgage Foreclosure Defense, Street Law Clinic at the Hill House Association, winter networking reception, MLK Prayer Breakfast, Black History Month Celebration and Farewell Dinner for Judge Little) were executed with professionalism and success, thus further establishing the Association as a premier law association with integrity and credibility. The HSBLA also hosted a congratulatory reception for Judge Dwayne Woodruff and a reception for incoming law students at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, within a few weeks, the HSBLA website (hosted by the ACBA), is expected to be in operation and should be of great benefit to HSBLA members regarding the transmission of information. The domain name of the new website is www.hsbla.org. The HSBLA also hosted a hospitality suite at the 2007 ACBA BenchBar Conference.

The plan for the upcoming year has not been developed as of yet because two anticipated board meetings (one in July, one in August) have not yet taken place. Nonetheless, the HSBLA intends, at a minimum, to hold a reception for incoming first-year law students at PITT and Duquesne, have a professional networking reception, conduct the MLK Prayer Breakfast and Black History Month Celebration, and another Street Law Clinic which has become extremely popular. If you have any questions, or need any additional information, feel free to contact me by phone at (412) 512-4457 or via e-mail at paellisjresq@aol.com. Thank you.