

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GBCDLA
April 5, 2007

On April 5, 2007, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the GBCDLA met. Those in attendance were: Brett Bloomston, Amber Ladner, Erskine Mathis, Michael Hanle, John Keeling as Membership Director, and David Scott.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Brett Bloomston began with a summary of issues to be discussed.

Erskine proposed that we have a general membership meeting. Brett commented that this was needed and it was agreed that a general membership meeting would be held at The Redmont on April 26, 2007 at 5:00pm.

The board discussed issues regarding the new sentencing guidelines. In particular, the scenario where a Judge chooses to sentence under the guidelines rather than under the habitual offender act. The question discussed was whether the judge has the authority to sentence "under" the guidelines or whether he is bound to follow the mandatory minimum sentence. It was decided that the ACDLA would be in a better position to address this issue and file a brief with the Supreme Court, if necessary, rather than the GBCDLA.

The annual GBCDLA scholarship for the Birmingham School of Law was discussed. It was determined that the GBCDLA can and will fund it this year and it was noted that this is a good way to obtain new members.

Erskine proposed that the GBCDLA consider hosting a CLE with a representative of Cognitive Engineering LLC as the speaker. Erskine stated that this company has developed a Truth-Detecting Program that utilizes MRI technology and Cognitive Science. He noted that he has viewed the presentation and believes the technology might be beneficial to a defendant who is in the "Penalty" phase of their case. The presentation was briefly viewed by all board members and it was agreed that GBCDLA would host a lunch CLE with a representative of Cognitive Engineering as the speaker.

"The Sentinel" was also discussed. It was agreed that Email of the Sentinel would be our primary means of distribution. However, it was also agreed that copies should be distributed at various GBCDLA functions and that copies should be posted on the Criminal Law Board at the Criminal Courthouse. It is thought that this will help us obtain new members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

David Scott
David Scott, Secretary of Meeting