

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW SECTION COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

1. The Minutes of the November, 2008 meeting were approved
2. Committees and Reports
  - a. MICPEL – Deb Webb reported that the marital property program was sold out. It went very well and got good evaluations.

Hot Tips is scheduled for February 19.

A program on Unmarried Couples will be held on May 14 in Columbia. The MICPEL committee is recruiting faculty.
  - b. Newsletter – Walter Herbert reported that he is working on the next issue and expects it to be out in late January.
  - c. Annual Meeting – Mary Sanders reported that she is working with the Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se for the annual meeting program. The program will address issues arising when an attorney is representing a party against a self represented litigant.

**Please note dates for Annual Meeting: June 10 – 13, 2009**
  - d. Legislation - See below
  - e. Groner award – Justin Sasser reported that he will have the nomination form in the next edition of the newsletter, and hopes to have it on the FLSC webpage. He also reported that he expects to finish the protocol so that we can vote on it at the next meeting.
  - f. Juvenile law – Leah Seaton reported that she is concerned because some of the CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) have lost their funding. She is advocating having CASA services available in every jurisdiction.
  - g. Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se – See “Annual Meeting” above
3. Legislation – Dodie Fait reported that the legislative session begins on January 14, 2009. The Legislative Committee will begin its Friday conference calls after that.
  - a. Child support – Cindy Callahan reported that she has already distributed the latest draft of the bill.

- b. Parent by Estoppel – Cindy Callahan reported that a bill will be introduced to create a “parent by estoppel”. A parent by estoppel is defined as an individual who, though not otherwise qualifying as a legal parent, is shown to have lived with the child for at least 2 years and meets certain other requirements.
  - c. Domestic Violence – Dorothy Lennig reported that while the domestic violence legislative agenda has not been finalized, some of the bills that are being considered are:
    - Remove the distinction between hand guns and long guns in the protective order statute
    - Require the removal of firearms at the final protective order hearing
    - Allow the removal of firearms at the temporary protective order hearing
    - Modify to the temporary protective order statute so that if the temporary order is not served, the order continues until the respondent requests a hearing.
    - Add strangulation to the list of crimes qualifying for first degree assault statute
  - d. Conflict of interest and testimony before the legislature – Cindy Callahan reminded the Council to be aware of any conflict of interest members might have and not to vote on those bills.
  - e. Other – The Lorincz case recently held that child care expenses incurred while the parent is in school are not considered as “child care expenses” under the child support guidelines. There was discussion about whether the new child support bill should be amended to cover these expenses or whether it should be introduced as a separate bill.
4. Old Business
- a. Listserve – Cindy Callahan reminded the Council members to respond when either no one else has answered the question or when the answers have been clearly incorrect.
  - b. Survey – Marc Noren reported that we could expect to see the survey soon.
  - c. MSBA Special Committee on ByLaws /MC Bar vote (Section representation) – Cindy Callahan reported that she attended a meeting about giving the 5 largest sections a voting membership on the Board of Governors. This might be helpful to the FLSC by having the BOG more fully understand our legislative issues.

- d. Personal Identifiers in Court Records meeting – A suggestion was made to have a judge make a presentation on this topic at the MICPEL Hot Tips.
5. New Business
  - a. Immigration Law section request- Cindy Callahan reported that the Immigration Law section wanted us to work with them on a training on immigration and family law issues. A segment has been included on the Hot Tips program.
  - b. Budget 09-10 and dinner meetings 08-09 – Members of the General Assembly will be invited to one of our Annapolis meetings to discuss upcoming legislative issues.
  - c. Other - Marc Noren suggested updating our website to include each county's postponement policies. Several members of the committee volunteered to provide information:

Justin Sasser – Prince George's & Calvert  
Leah Seaton – Eastern Shore counties  
Mary Sanders – Baltimore County  
Alisa Cummins – Howard  
Mary Ann Day – Frederick, Washington, & Alleghany  
Marc Noren – Baltimore City  
David Bruce – Ann Arundel  
Chris Van Roden – Harford  
Cindy Callahan - Montgomery

6. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting **January 14, 2008**  
At Middleton Tavern in Annapolis  
[www.middleton Tavern.com](http://www.middleton Tavern.com)

ATTENDEES:

Cindy Callahan, Chair  
Mary Sanders, Vice Chair  
Dorothy Lennig, Secretary  
Walter Herbert, Treasurer  
Marc Noren, Past Chair  
Paul Reinstein, Past Chair  
Renee Bronfein Ades  
Ron Bergman  
Master David Bruce  
Alisa Cummins  
Mary Ann Day  
Dodie Fait

Kristine Howanski  
Craig Little  
Justin Sasser  
Master Leah Seaton  
Chris Van Roden  
Deborah Webb  
Vince Wills

