

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW SECTION COUNCIL
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50

1. The Minutes of the December, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. Committees and Reports
 - a. MICPEL – Erin Gable and Deb Webb reported that the brochure for the Hot Tips program had been mailed and there were currently 40 registrations. They are going to send a notice out on the list serv. The program is on February 19.

Erin Gable reported that they are also working on the program on Unmarried Couples.
 - b. Newsletter – The deadline for articles for the next edition is January 27.
 - c. Annual Meeting – Mary Sanders reported that the summer program will be called, “Wise, Wicked, and Simple: Dealing with Self Represented Litigants”. It will be a joint program with the Judicial Administration Committee. They will be sending out a survey to ask attorneys to describe their experiences with dealing with self represented litigants and will report on the results at the summer program.

Please note dates for Annual Meeting: June 10 – 13, 2009
 - d. Legislation - See below
 - e. Beverly A. Groner award – Justin Sasser presented the draft of the selection criteria. The Council discussed the proposal, suggested some changes, and approved the criteria. Justin will make the edits and distribute the final criteria.
 - f. Juvenile law – No report
 - g. Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se – See “Annual Meeting” above
3. Legislation – Dodie Fait
 - a. Presumption of Joint Custody – Delegate Kathleen Dumais reported that the presumption of joint custody would be introduced again this year.
 - b. SB70 – Medical Support for Children – Cindy Callahan reported that this was a Department of Human Resources bill filed separately from the child support bill. It would require parents, in most circumstances, to include

children in their health insurance coverage. Members of the Council were concerned about how the bill defined “reasonable cost”. The Council voted to support the bill with amendments regarding reasonable cost and Cindy Callahan will testify.

c. Domestic Violence – Dorothy Lennig reported that the Governor was submitting a bill to require the court to order the removal of firearms at the final protective order. In addition, Delegate Simmons is filing several bills. (1) Increase to up to 6 months the amount of time a judge can order a temporary protective order if law enforcement cannot serve it; (2) allow attorneys’ fees in protective order cases and pro bono family law cases; and (3) to create a domestic violence central repository for protective orders.

d. Conflict of interest and testimony before the legislature – Council members are reminded that they cannot testify in opposition to a position taken by the Section Council.

e. Child Support – Delegate Dumais reported that the Department of Human Resources cannot file a bill without approval of the Governor. If the Department does not file the new child support bill, Delegate Dumais can introduce it.

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 – No report

c. MSBA Special Committee on ByLaws - A recommendation has been sent to the Board of Governors to grant non-voting representation to the 5 largest section councils, including the FJLSC. Chris Van Roden volunteered to be the FJLSC’s representative, if it passes.

d. Personal Identifiers in Court Records – Cindy Callahan invited Judge Wilner to be the luncheon speaker at the Hot Tips program and to discuss this issue.

e. Rules 9-205 and 9-205.2 (Parenting Coordination and Mediation) – The Rules Committee reviewed these two proposed rule changes at its last meeting. It sent both of them back for further work. With respect to the Parenting Coordination rule, they were concerned about self represented litigants fully understanding the role of a parent coordinator. With respect to the mediation rule, they were concerned about the qualifications and quality of the mediators.

f. Certification of ADR advice – Cindy Callahan reported that this has been withdrawn.

5. New Business – No report
6. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting **February 11, 2008**
At Middleton Tavern in Annapolis
www.middleton Tavern.com

ATTENDEES

Cindy Callahan, Chair
Mary Sanders, Vice Chair
Dorothy Lennig, Secretary
Marc Noren, past chair
Barry Dalnekoff, past chair
Keith Schiszek, past chair
Renee Bronfein Ades
Ron Bergman
Master David Bruce
Dorothy Fait
Erin Gable
Kristine Howanski
Craig Little
Justin Sasser
Master Leah Seaton
Chris Van Roden
Deb Webb
Vince Wills

Guests: Delegate Kathleen Dumais

LISTSERVE REMAINING WEEKS

Craig Little	week of 1/12
Marc Noren	week of 1/19
Chris Van Roden	week of 1/26
Mary Sanders	week of 2/2
Justin Sasser	week of 2/9
Leah Seaton	week of 2/16
Deb Webb	week of 2/23
Vince Wills	week of 3/1