

Family & Juvenile Law Section Council Minutes of January 11, 2006 Meeting

The January meeting of the Family & Juvenile Law Section Council took place at Paul's on the South River in Annapolis, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m., and the minutes from the December, 2005 meeting were approved. Chair Barbara Trader introduced Charlie Wagner, who is the Section Council's liaison from the Board of Governors. Barbara proceeded to give a positive report on the status of the Section Council budget.

During the MICPEL Report, Mary Sanders and Stacy Siegel reported that FLU was shaping up to be an extremely interesting presentation. Mary also reported on the status of the tax workshop to be held in April and the evening series that would be begin in late spring.

Walter Herbert reported that the Newsletter was on track to be published in February. Paula Price and Jennifer Dill have "volunteered" to help Walter with his ongoing wonderful efforts.

Stacy reported that arrangements for the Ocean City Program were taking shape. Three appellate court judges have been confirmed to participate on the alimony panel, and efforts are being made to insure that we have a fourth. The annual meeting subcommittee will be meeting over the next couple of months to continue the efforts to have another entertaining, yet educational program. Mary Sanders had also distributed announcements for the Groner Award and enlisted the services of several Section Council members to distribute those announcements to local bar publications.

Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to legislative issues. Dodie Fait and Marc Noren gave reports on the general status of several bills. Dodie and Marc advised that the weekly conference calls would likely resume on Fridays in the very near future. Marc noted that we would make an effort to blend the calendar method that we have utilized the last couple of years with respect to testimony, along with having a group approach to the higher profile bills and/or bills that the Council as a whole seems to feel stronger about. The legislative priorities this year are the health insurance/child support bill that we had proposed, the property transfer bill, our access to records bill, and opposing the perennial joint custody bill.

During the new business portion of the meeting, there was a discussion about the GAL Advisory Guidelines that had been promulgated by the AOC subcommittee. Several council members had expressed some concern about the final version of those guidelines. Keith Schiszick volunteered to form an ad hoc subcommittee to review the guidelines and to report back at our February meeting. Paula Price, Jennifer Dill, Chris Van Roden and Charlie Wagner all volunteered to help Keith with those efforts. Finally, Marc Noren reported that when the UCCJA was re-codified as the UCCJEA, the new statute contemplated that the courts would have several new forms for the notice provisions and other related issues, but that none of the courts seem to have any such forms, or to know what to do with the new statutory requirements. Marc was then volunteered to send a letter to AOC with the request that that office use their efforts to insure that the appropriate forms are created and distributed to all clerks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

OFFICERS: Barbara Trader - Chair, Stacy LeBow Siegel - Chair Elect, Marc Noren - Secretary and Cindy Callahan - Treasurer

PAST CHAIRS: Barry J. Dalnekoff, Immediate Past Chair, Keith Schiszick

MEMBERS: Dorothy Lennig, Dodie Fait, Chris Van Roden, Walter Herbert, Ron Bergman, Mary Sanders, Paula Price, Helen Harrington, Marty Sitterding, Erin Gable, Leigh Goodmark, Helen Harrington, Steve Silverman, Jolie Weinberg, Jennifer Dill

GUESTS: Charles Wagner

Respectfully submitted,

Marc B. Noren, Secretary