

Family & Juvenile Law Section Council Minutes of February 8, 2006 Meeting

The February Meeting of the Family & Juvenile Law Section Council took place at That's Amore in Columbia, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by acting chair Stacy LeBow Siegel, and the minutes from the January 2006 meeting were approved as amended (to reflect the fact that Vince Wills attended that meeting).

Keith Schiszik reported the recommendations of the ad hoc subcommittee that he chaired with respect to the proposed GAL advisory guidelines. The suggestions of the ad hoc subcommittee were approved by the Section Council. The Council also voted to support the guidelines as drafted, even if no further changes are made.

Mary Sanders gave the MICPEL report. Approximately 87 people attended the Family Law University. Everyone agreed that this was one of the better substantive programs that had been presented and that Mary was to be commended for her hard work on same. Mary also reported that the tax workshop was in the process of being rescheduled. Finally, Stacy announced that the new MICPEL committee for next year would be chaired again by Mary Sanders, with the assistance of Jolie Weinberg, Erin Gable, Dodie Fait and Vince Wills.

Walter Herbert reported that the newsletter should be out very soon.

Stacy reported that the details of the Ocean City program were being finalized. There will be four appellate court judges to participate on the alimony panel. We have also been approached by the taxation section, who apparently is interested in doing a tax and family law presentation at the annual convention.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted mostly to legislation. The Section Council voted to support House Bill Nos. 453 (concerning settlement of arrearages by the Child Support Enforcement Administration), No. 455 (which would establish that the court should consider assets and standard of living in deviating from the child support guidelines) and No. 547 (which would authorize a court to consider voluntary contributions by an employee to a retirement plan in determine actual income regarding child support cases). During the remainder of the legislative discussion, Keith agreed to attend the Rules Committee Hearing on the GAL standards. Stacy agreed to provide written testimony for Cindy's use (or someone else's use) regarding the health insurance/child support bill and Cindy volunteered to work on written testimony for the GAL immunity bill. A combination of Cindy/Marc and/or Keith will provide live testimony for hearings scheduled on February 21st and February 23rd.

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

ATTENDEES:

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

PAST CHAIRS: Barry J. Dalnekoff, Immediate Past Chair, Keith Schiszik, Paul Reinstein, and Christopher Nicholson

MEMBERS: Erin Gable, Dodie Fait, Mary Sanders, Vince Wills, Ron Bergman, Walter Herbert, Dorothy Lennig, Chris Van Roden, Marty Sitterding, Jolie Weinberg and Steve Silverman