

MSBA



JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION SECTION

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE: Hon. Ruth Jakubowski, Chair; Richard L. Flax, Esquire, Vice Chair; Hon. Paul E. Alpert; Hon. Sally C. Chester; Master Andrea F. Kelly; Hon. Robert C. Nally; John E. Nunn, III, Esquire; Franklin B. Olmsted, Esquire; David L. Palmer, Esquire; Carolyn H. Thaler, Esquire; and the Hon. Julia B. Weatherly.

The meeting was called to order.

The minutes from the **October 16, 2008**, meeting were approved.

Master Kramer was unable to attend this month but sent a report for the Chair to relay to the Council on the Master's Project. The Masters' Advisory Committee met during the first week of November to finalize plans, narrowing topics and identifying speakers for the inaugural masters' education program in March and April of 2009. These optional half day programs will be offered in three regional locations— Chesapeake College on the Eastern Shore, JECC in Annapolis and Hood College in Frederick. The topic for the first session will be child development, as it relates to children as witnesses. This initial 3-hour session will be broken into thirds: one hour will be devoted to the developmental stages for children of various ages; the second hour will address the role of the master in getting information from children through testimony, interviews, etc.; and the last hour will be a round table discussion in groups of 8 or fewer masters, to compare their practice and experiences or challenges in getting information from children involved in court cases.

Judge Weatherly reported to the Council on the Self Representation Project. Judge Weatherly met with the project's co-sponsors and partner, the MSBA Family & Juvenile Law Section, on November 6th. Our focus and goal will be to develop guidelines for attorneys involved in contested *Pro Se* cases. In developing these guidelines research will be undertaken of other jurisdictions' plans, and a potential survey of their members by the Family & Juvenile Law Section. The JAS contemplates a joint program with the MSBA Family & Juvenile Law Section on this topic at the MSBA annual meeting in June 2009. Also, Judge Raker's *Access to Justice Project* is gearing up for its first organization meeting.

Frank Olmstead, Chair of our Legislation Committee, reported that there was nothing to report as the legislature was not in session.

Richard Flax for the JAS Rules Committee will contact the MSBA Committee on Rules of Practice (in 2002 the MSBA Committee on Rules of Practice was created to serve as a liaison between the MSBA Board of Governors and Court of Appeals Rules Committee) as to JAS Council's potential role in providing our thoughts on proposed rules, etc. that affect judicial administration. Also reported on the overall agenda for the Maryland Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure November 14, 2008, meeting (see <http://www.courts.state.md.us/rules/agenda/agenda.pdf>), as well as several specific agenda items, such as proposals to Rule 2-433 (Sanctions) being recommended by the Discovery Subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The meeting was adjourned with no other new business being discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD L. FLAX, Esquire
Acting Secretary, JAS Council