

December 10, 2003, Children's Law Section Council meeting,
held at the Michigan State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan.
The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m.

Council members present in person:

Rebekah Mason Visconti
Kathryn S. Falk Fehrman
Judith T. New
Katherine L. Hansen
Suzanne Culliton Stephan

Council members present via speakerphone:

Karen Gullberg Cook
Jennifer A. Pilette
Geula Z. Tron
William E. Ladd
Mayssa Attia
John Forczak
Charlotte L. Allen
Robbie L. Powelson
Hon. Patricia N. Conlon
Hon. Robert J. Butts

Children's Law Section members present: via speakerphone:

Don Duquette, Kevin Cronin, Claudia Day.
Other guests: Justin Ravitz, Barbara Blaine, Claude Chapman.

Council members absent: Musette Michael was named interim director of
FIA and could not attend. James C. Bishai, Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, and
James Ridella.

Minutes of November:

Suzanne Stephan moved for adoption, Kay Hansen second.
Minutes for November were approved with spelling corrections for Kay
Hansen, Geula Tron, Robbie Powelson.

Treasurer's report:

Balance of \$15,631.36.

Becky Hunter has requested automatic payments for Bill Kandler.

Approved.

The section will pay Frank Vandervort and Rosalind Folman's honorarium.
Checks totaling \$2800.00 have been left with the State Bar this evening

Motion by Jennifer Pilette to accept treasurer's report

Second by Bill Ladd

Motion carried without dissent

A Criminal Law liaison is needed, they meet the 3rd Tuesday of every
month, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Discussion was held that this be a rotating
commitment. Rebekah will email this request to the membership.

Legislation Committee

Musette Michael resigned from this committee due to conflict of interest with her position at FIA. Kevin Cronin will be appointed if the bylaws will allow.

A discussion regarding the physical location of meetings was held. Rebekah will collect emails on suggestions.

Don Duquette brought forward a proposal that the CLS endorse the NACC's program of certification of children's attorneys. This program is a pilot at present and Michigan could become one of three sites. Basic requirements are 30% of practice in child welfare law at least three years, peer review, and pass a national examination. Cost would be \$500.00, free to attorneys during the pilot program.

Jennifer Pilette moved to endorse, Kathy Fehrman second.

Approved with three NO votes.

Rebekah will write a letter of endorsement.

It was announced that Nanette Bowler will be leaving FIA to become a Probate Judge and Musette Michael will be Interim Director. The Governor has appointed a new director to begin mid-December.

Amicus Committee:

Barbara Blaine from Chicago brought to the committee a request for support of legislation changes to extend statutory timelines for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse. She will present written materials to CLS. Justin Ravitz and Claude Chapman brought to CLS copies of their brief filed with the COA. Charlotte Allen moved to table, Rebekah Visconti seconded. Approved. Judi New will take a copy of materials to Charlotte in Ann Arbor tomorrow.

Legislative Committee:

The committee reviewed SB224, Children's Memorial Day; the Ombudsman bill, which has been sent out of committee; and a recent bill prohibiting sex offenders from future adoption. The committee will report back to CLS in January. We also have an interest in HB 4024, Psychotropic Drug Use in Children, and SB 64, Relative placements receiving the same financial assistance as foster care. The Family Section is opposed to the grandparent rights bill as passed by the House. According to Bill Kandler, the Senate passed their version, which more closely aligns with the Family Section. This may go to conference committee. The legislative committee will consider it and bring to CLS.

Training Committee:

Kay Hansen will co-chair, we are looking at early May in Gaylord. Michigan Tribal Council wants to collaborate with us in training. John will send the ICWA tape to them.

Judith New announced that the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice is in the process of mailing a copy of their manual on

Munchausen by Proxy to every member of the Children's Law Section as previously approved by CLS. This is at no cost to CLS.

A letter of congratulations will be sent to Musette Michael.

A discussion was held on the new requirements being imposed on children's attorneys. Paul Holland had expressed interest in this matter some time ago. He was contacted recently and declined our invitation to participate in a committee on this issue. A committee will be formed to investigate these issues and others, such as fee arrangements for GALs. SCAO will be contacted for their input.

Kathy Fehrman moved for adjournment, Rebekah Visconti second. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Submitted by Judith New.