

Minutes of January 7, 2004, Children's Law Section meeting held at the Majestic Cafe in Detroit, Michigan. The meeting was called to order by the chair, Rebekah Visconti.

Council members present in person:

Rebekah Mason Visconti  
Karen Gullberg Cook  
Jennifer Pilette  
Katherine Hansen  
Judith New  
Suzanne Stephan  
John Forczak  
William Ladd

Council members present via speakerphone:

James Ridella  
James Bishai  
Kathryn S. Falk Fehrman  
Charlotte L. Allen  
Robbie L. Powelson

Guest: Bill Kandler

Council members absent: Geula Tron, Musette Michael, Mayssa Attia, Amy Ronayne Krause, Robert J. Butts, Patricia N. Conlon,

The December minutes were approved as amended. Bill Kandler was present in Lansing as a guest.

The Treasurer's report was tabled to next month. Rebekah Visconti moved, Kay Hansen seconded.

Discussion was held re: non-council members on committees. It was decided that no changes to the by-laws are necessary. Section members can attend any committee meetings they wish, and with their appointment to a committee by the chair, they may participate in the work of the committee. However, only council members will be eligible to vote.

Rebekah will contact Bill Schooley and Kevin Cronin to invite their participation on the Legislative Committee. Suzanne Stephan announced the Legislative Committee will meet as a group either 1/24 or 2/1.

Jennifer Pilette is appointed as the Criminal Law Section Liaison.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lawyer/GAL - Jim Bishai is chair, Karen Cook, Judi New, Bill Ladd, Suzanne Stephen are committee members. Robbie Powelson announced the Michigan Supreme Court will hold a meeting on this issue at the Hall of Justice on January 29, 2004.

The Section decided, after further discussion of the issues and the editorial in the Detroit newspaper, to ask to meet with Justice Corrigan. If Justice Corrigan agrees, Rebekah Visconti will make the arrangements for this meeting as soon as possible. The Section will also survey the CLS membership for their views, via postcard and email, regarding caseload management, fees and payment of fees, and LGAL requirements, per the member's geographical/court jurisdiction, and will bring this information to the meeting. An article will also be done for the Journal.

Kay Hansen moved, Jennifer Pilette seconded, for CLS to approve funding for the survey. Motion carried.

Amicus Committee - tabled to next month.

Training Education Committee - Kay Hansen will co-chair. The CLS agreed that the training/annual meeting will be the first weekend in May. Robbie Powelson announced that the Upper Peninsula Michigan Legal Institute will be held in June.

#### Legislative Committee

This committee will meet as a whole on 2/1/04, location to be announced. They have received 16 more bills from Bill Kandler. Individual reports will be given at the next meeting. The Ombudsman bill will be taken up by the legislature this month.

No new business.

As old business, CLS also discussed alternate places to meet. Karen Cook will research possibilities in Oakland County.

Jennifer Pilette moved to adjourn, Bill Ladd seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Judith New  
Secretary  
Judith New <jtnew@voyager.net>