

Minutes of March 10, 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
Katherine Hansen
Judith New
Suzanne Stephan
William E. Ladd
Kathryn S. Falk Fehrman

Council members present via speakerphone:

John Forczak
Karen Gullberg Cook
Geula Tron
Robert J. Butts
Mayssa Attia
Musette Michael
Charlotte Allen
James Bishai

Section Members Present via speakerphone:

Laural Beeckman
Kevin Cronin
Helene Phillips
Claudia Day
Steve Donovan
Frank Vandervort

Council members absent: Patricia N. Conlon, James Ridella, Jennifer Pilette, Amy Ronayne Krause, Robbie L. Powelson

MINUTES:

The February minutes were incomplete. Katherine Hansen moved and Rebekah Visconti seconded to approve minutes at the next meeting. Approved.

TREASURY:

Treasurer's Report: The Section has \$4096.48. Frank Vandervort has been paid, also Bill Kandler and Rosalind Folman. Eight members did not renew from last year to this year; Geula will follow up on this. She has also signed the contract for the annual meeting/seminar. We also have approximately \$1500.00 coming from last year's meeting payments. Katherine Hansen moved and Karen Cook seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Approved.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be in conjunction with a training by MJI and SCAO on LGAL responsibilities. The recently developed protocol can be downloaded from the following web site:
<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/lgal/LGALprotocol.htm>

MJI will sponsor the training on Friday; trainers are Jennifer Pilette, Rebekah Visconti, Chris Vadino, and one more person -- hopefully local to the mid-Michigan area. At the conclusion of the training, CLS will hold a question and answer session, move into a "Happy Hour" with a cash bar and hor'deuvres, concluding Friday night with the CLS annual dinner meeting.

Venue is the Comfort Inn in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, May 21 and 22.
Dinner-Speaker is not confirmed. John Myers has been suggested.

Saturday's agenda:

Judge Giovan-rule changes

break

concurrent morning sessions: ICWA and research on the internet (free)

lunch with update on law

concurrent afternoon sessions: Mental Competency & Juvenile Delinquency and Munchausen by Proxy

Every member of the Children's Law Section should have received a copy of the manual developed by the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice on Munchausen by Proxy.

Save the Date postcards will be going out next week. The registration form will be a page in the Journal by way of announcing the event.

The rate for the seminar will have a \$35 discount if the attendee is a CLS member. Rooms are \$84.00. CLS will be reimbursed by MJJ/SCAO for expenses for the 21st. Judge Butts has developed a proposed registration form.

Volunteers for the Awards Committee are Rebekah Visconti, Kathy Fehrman, Judi New and John Forczak.

Journal:

Frank Vandervort reported to the CLS:

Article authors have bailed in the last couple of weeks, at present he is working on reproducing an article from the Colorado Bar Journal on the history of Child Lawyering. He also has a Bill Ladd article on AWOL clients, and an interview with John E.B. Myers, one of the leading authorities on child abuse litigation. Frank is interested in articles approximately 10-20 pages. He will follow up on a suggestion that he ask Jennifer Renne about her paper on the ethics of representing minors.

For the next 3 Journals

LGAL-discussion on Protocol

Appeals Practice-Charlotte Allen

Paternity

Ryan vs. Ryan-Kevin Cronin

Medical

Reasonable Efforts-

Delinquency issue-confession case from the Federal system

Paul & Bill

Saving kids from 1st amendment review

LGAL Issue:

Judi New reported:

The survey has been sent, via email to the listserve, via email to those persons who are members of the section but not on the listserve and they have given the state bar permission to email them, and via postcard for those you are members but not using email. She also faxed the survey to members in those counties without any response.

Rebekah has transmitted the responses to the Chief Justice. The meeting scheduled for March 16 has 27 confirmed attendees. We will meet in the 10th Floor Law Library of Cadillac Place, 3020 W Grand. The format will be determined by Chief Justice Corrigan, we suggested questions on 3 x 5 cards.

Some discussion was held concerning attorneys leaving this field of specialization.

Wayne County's project has fallen apart; there may be plans to do it later.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Suzanne Stephan reported:

SB727 - Grandparent Visitation has not been voted on as yet, although lots of testimony was given. It could be voted on the 16th. As it stands, the grandparent would have to submit an affidavit in order to visit. CLS concerns:

- * risk should be accorded weight

- * definition of unfit parent

- * notice requirement to parent - add person who has physical custody

- * what are CPS implications? Clarify that grandparents have no standing in protective proceedings. After discussion motion was made by Kathy Fehrman with Charlotte Allen second to support with the above revisions Approved, with Musette Michael abstain

No action as yet on CASSIA bill

New Business:

Kathy Fehrman - The State bar annual meeting will be 9/30 10/1

Dennis Archer to speak

Do we want a program? It has already been decided that we will have a meeting only.

A letter from UM's Don Duquette concerning an ABA program for GALs, i.e. pro bono in large firms, will be responded to that CLS wishes to participate in any discussions, per motion by Kathy Fehrman, seconded by Musette Michael.

Approved

APSAC-2nd Annual Conference will be held in Hawaii.

Katherine Hansen moved, seconded by Charlotte Allen, to adjourn. Approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Rebekah Visconti. The next meeting will be held in Detroit on April 7, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith New