

November 5, 2003, Children's Law Section Council meeting, held at the Michigan State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan.

Council members present in person:

Rebekah Mason Visconti
Katherine Hanson
Robert Butts
Suzanne Stephan
Amy Krause

Council members present via speakerphone:

Karen Cook
Jennifer Pilette
Guela Tron
William Ladd
Mayssa Attia
John Forczak
James Ridella
James Bishai

Children's Law Section members present:

in person:	William Schooley	via speakerphone:	Lisa Halushka
	Jenifer Pettibone		Frank Vandervort
	Lynn Martinez		Don Duquette

Council members absent: Judi New due to a death in her family.
Musette Michael was in Chicago for her daughter's wedding.

Minutes of 10/8:

Bob Butts moved for adoption, Suzanne Stephan second.
Minutes for 10/8 were approved without dissent or correction.

Treasurer's report:

Additional bills from the conference have been paid. Ending balance on 9/10/03 was \$554.26, on 10/30/03 \$831.80. \$554.26 is more accurate.

No money has been received from dues, we expect approximately \$23,000.

Bill Kandler and Frank Vandervort agreed that CLS will settle outstanding bills with them once dues are received.

Motion by Jennifer Pilette for an honorarium to R. Folman for \$350.00,
Second by Bill Ladd, discussion held
Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion by Jennifer Pilette to accept treasurer's report
Second by Bob Butts
Motion carried without dissent

Legislation Committee
Suzanne Stephan, chair
Bill Ladd, co-chair

Bills have been distributed to committee members Bill Ladd, Jim Bishai, Musette Michael, Suzanne Stephan, Karen Cook. Also joining the committee is Mayssa Attia.

HB 5183 Foster Care Youth Network, passed the house on 10/30 and referred to Family and Human Services Senate Committee.

FIA has no position

Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies supports

By general consensus, CLS supports

SB 148 - CASA

Discussion lead to decision for Rebekah to send a letter which council members will review prior to release that CLS does not support CASA to have standing as a party.

HB 4096 - Children's Ombudsman

Points of discussion: appointment by Governor with Senate approval with committee membership

objection to provision for disclosure which is currently confidential (victims of child abuse and domestic violence)

provision for bringing class action suits would be powerful

office needs to be reorganized

office will be more independent with a provision of five year appointment

Per Bill Kandler, this is targeted for passage by year's end.

Karen Cook moved and after discussion withdrew a motion to reorganize office.

Amy Krause objected to the elimination of confidentiality provisions.

Suzanne Stephan will send this out to the council membership, Rebekah will send a letter reflecting our comments.

Jennifer Pilette moved for general support of the bill as written, second by Karen Cook. Reworded: CLS votes for general support of Children's Ombudsman bill as proposed, Karen Cook second. This leaves out the provision for five year appointments, appointment will be by Governor's pleasure.

Vote of 6 in favor, 2 dissents, 2 abstentions.

Amy Krause moved to have letter reflect the vote was not unanimous, Kay Hansen second, discussion followed. John Forczak offered a friendly amendment that the actual number of votes, for against and abstentions be in the letter, Amy accepted the amendment. After discussion Amy Krause withdrew her motion.

Rebekah moved that the other issues from the legislative committee be tabled, Karen Cook second, motion carried.

Child Welfare Journal

Amicus request from the Michigan Supreme Court.

Issue similar to C.A.W.

Karen Cook is on this case.

Oral arguments scheduled for 11/13 - 1 week.

Family Law Section took position in favor of the father per Jennifer P.

A letter will be sent to the Court stating the council is unable to respond due to the short time frame.

Lawyer/GAL committee - nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

Kevin Cronin's request is pending with the legislative committee

Education Committee - nothing to report at this time

Jennifer Pilette is chair

Paul Holland has requested _____

Bob Butts wants to join the committee

Website information with new members should be current

The letterhead is current

NACC children's attorney certification

J. Pilette stated Don Duquette emailed her funding exists

B. Butts stated a committee was formed 11/6/02

Jennifer will be the information from Don

Amy Krause resigns as the Criminal Law Liaison for CLS -- the Governor has appointed her chairperson of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. The Criminal Law section meets in Lansing once a month. The vacancy will be posted.

Jennifer Pilette moved to adjourn, Bill Ladd second, Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Submitted by Judith New, taken by Kay Hansen.