

September 11, 2003, meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Jennifer Pilette.

In attendance: Jennifer Pilette, Rebekah Visconti, Geula Tron, Judi New, Patricia Conlon, John Forczak, Suzanne Stephen, Amy Krause, Kathy Fehrman, James Bishai, Bill Ladd, Musette Michael, James Ridella, Bill Kandler

On conference call: Charlotte Allen, Robert Butts, Robbie Powelson

Ballot and paperwork distributed:

Vision statement, 2002-2003 Officers and Council Members Roster, Annual Report 2002-2003 and CLS ByLaws. These items are on the CLS webpage at: <http://www.michbar.org/sections/>.

Jennifer Pilette presented the gavel to Rebekah Visconti, the Section's new chair. On behalf of the Section, Rebekah Visconti presented a gift to Jennifer Pilette as a token of the Section's gratitude for her diligence in chairing CLS over the past several months.

Ballots were distributed and the new Section members were voted into office.

for 2003-2004

Chairperson: Rebekah Mason Visconti
Chairperson-Elect: Kathryn S. Falk Fehrman
Secretary: Judith T. New
Treasurer: Geula Z. Tron

Term Expiring 2004:

James C. Bishai
Katherine L. Hansen
Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause
William E. Ladd
Mayssa Attia

Term Expiring 2005:

Charlotte L. Allen
Karen Gullberg Cook
Musette A. Michael
Robbie L. Powelson
James Ridella

Term Expiring 2006:

Hon. Robert J. Butts
Hon. Patricia N. Conlon
John Forczak
Jennifer A. Pilette
Suzanne Culliton Stephan

Commissioner Liaison: Nancy J. Diehl

Representatives from other Sections:

Criminal Law Section: Hon. Patricia N. Conlon
Family Law Section: John Forczak

Treasurer's Report:

Balance of \$1500.00, payments for the Journal will be paid in October

(\$9500.00). Receivables from annual training/meeting will be deposited in October (\$3000.00). Dues beginning in 2003-2004 will be \$35.00. Also, the Governor's Task Force for Children's Justice has granted \$12000.00 per year for the next two years towards the Journal publication expenses. Details of this arrangement will be given at the October meeting. Assuming CLS will maintain 600+ members, a proposed budget is submitted for consideration at the next meeting:

Proposed: (if CLS has fiscal responsibility for GTF)

2003-2004

Income	\$34075.00
Dues	\$22075.00
GTF	12000.00

Expenses: \$28200.00

Legislation	\$6000.00
Meetings	1000.00
Seminars/Ann Mt	4200.00
Travel	0.00
Telephone	1000.00
Copying	750.00
Newsletter	500.00
Printing	500.00
Postage	250.00
Journal/4500/3	13500.00
Miscellaneous	500.00

Balance due 2003 5000.00

The checks for the annual training have been misplaced and were not cashed. A proposed letter was approved to be sent to all attendees to request payment.

Bill Kandler updated the members regarding legislative items of interest. The Section also thanked him for his past year's service to the Section.

1. Amendments to Court Rules 3.977 and 7.204. The intent of this proposal ADM 2003-25 is to reduce the time between entry of orders terminating parental rights and final disposition of appeals from such orders. If the Section wishes to comment, the deadline is November 1, 2003. Public hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 29, 2004.

To view this proposed change, you may go to the state bar website <http://www.michbar.org> or the Michigan Supreme Court website <http://courts.michigan.gov>.

Motion JP, ED made and carried to table this for the next meeting.

2. The legislature, Rep. Hager, will hold hearings on adoption and what should be done. The Legislature committee at present is Bill Kandler and Kathy Fehrman. Kathy is removing herself from this committee since she believes it would be a conflict of interest with her new position at FIA.

All committees will be discussed at the October meeting.

3. Motion made and carried to table CASA letter. Per Bill, the Oakland Bar and Family Law Section are in opposition to scope of responsibilities of the CASA, not the program itself.

James Ridella and William Ladd reported to the Section that the proposed permanent guardianship legislation CLS was working on with Don Duquette and UM has fizzled out. Motion made and carried to table this.

The Child Welfare Journal was discussed. Frank Vandervort questioned the Section on its desire for another issue to be produced in 2003. This will be further discussed at the October meeting. Kathy Fehrman will be able to talk to Frank about this. The cost of the two journals for 2003 is \$9867. The Section would like to received an itemized billing.

The Annual Conference/Training Committee will begin working on this now. Volunteers are Jennifer Pilette, Geula Tron, Judi New, Rebekah Visconti, Kay Hansen, Charlotte Allen. SCAO would like to partner with CLS on training. Ideas will be solicited from the members and a report made at the October meeting.

Education and Amicus committees will be discussed at the October meeting. Jennifer will also bring to the October meeting In re Nall for discussion. Standing Amicus Committee members are Jennifer Pilette, William Ladd, Charlotte Allen, Judi New, John Forczak and Suzanne Stephen.

John Forczak is the CLS librarian. He will discuss with Frank Vandervort having an order form in the Journal for tapes of trainings.

Annual Reports will be published in the Journal each year.

Kathy Fehrman moved and Amy Krause seconded that the Section dedicate itself to working toward the Supreme Court's initiative for Adoption Day. After discussion, Kathy withdrew her motion. Bill Ladd moved that the Section discuss and present information at the Adoption Fair. This was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m. by Rebekah Visconti.