

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 20 – 2 to 4 PM (Teleconference)**

**MINUTES**

I. Call to Order and Attendance – Quorum met.

Members Present: Nancy Gallagher, Delores Hall, Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Jennifer Lamp, Mary Lovik, Ashley Lowe, Lori Pourzan, Sarah Prout, Rebecca Shiemke, Sarah Mason

SBM Liaisons Present: Rob Mathis, Janeice Morrow

Members Absent: Michael Brown, Robert Coleman, Jeannine Laible, Eilisia Schwarz, Danielle Carter, Leslie Hagen, Bruce Petrick, Dana Warnez

R. Mathis discussed the upcoming ABA Day in Washington, DC, and asked if any members of the Committee knew of sources that provided statistics on the prevalence of domestic violence across different poverty levels. Committee members expressed concern making a causal connection between domestic violence and poverty level and that while there may appear to be a correlation between certain poverty levels and domestic violence, there is not necessarily causation.

II. Approval of February 21, 2012 Minutes

A motion was brought to approve the minutes with a correction to the spelling of M. Lovik's name in ¶ 3 of Personal Protection Orders and a correction to the subject of Family Law Journal Article #3 to reflect "Batterers Intervention." The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

III. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

--Task Force public hearings on children exposed to violence in rural and tribal areas – Detroit, MI (April 24 - 25, 2012)

A. Lowe shared this information for any members interested in attending.

IV. Consideration of supporting ABA's position on [S. 1925](#) (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act [VAWA] of 2011) for "lobby day" in Washington D.C.

--Due April 6

R. Mathis discussed 'lobby day' in Washington DC and asked whether the committee wanted to support the ABA's position on S. 1925. The Committee asked him to provide a synopsis of the proposed changes to VAWA and the ABA's position for their consideration. R. Mathis will provide the synopsis to the Committee for an electronic vote.

## V. Subcommittees: Meeting Updates and Reports

### Training and System Education:

Members: Lori Pourzan (chair); Sarah Prout, Jennifer Lamp, Danielle Carter, Staff  
~March 15, 2012

L. Pourzan shared the good news that she had secured a spot to present to the family law judges at the Supreme Court Judicial Conference on September 6, at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Guest speaker, Juan Carlos Areán, has committed to be the presenter on the Committee's behalf and we are in the process of securing the commitment. He is extremely knowledgeable in the area of Fathering after Domestic Violence. L. Pourzan intends on going to the conference and introducing him – she will check to see if other members of the Committee will be allowed to attend the presentation.

R. Mathis has negotiated Juan Carlos' fee of \$2500, plus the cost of a round trip flight from Traverse City to Detroit. The total expenditure for this event is approximately \$3,000 and R. Mathis has confirmed that the funds are available in the DV budget for this expenditure. R. Mathis poled the committee members to see if there was a consensus for approval on securing Mr. Areán to present. All members present were in favor. R. Mathis noted that the pro bono training in October will be of minimal cost and, therefore, will use very little of the annual budget allotment. R. Mathis also conveyed that Mr. Areán has agreed to allow recording of his presentation for possible future trainings by the Committee. Those arrangements can be worked on at a future meeting.

J. Lamp talked to DHS regarding plugging into their annual training, but after speaking with them, it was decided that it would not work as they have a set curriculum and it is mandatory to present at all six annual sessions. They did suggest two other conferences that will be looked into.

R. Mathis noted that the planning for the Pro Bono training in October is well underway. The live session will be held at Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus and broadcast to Cooley's other Michigan campuses. The training rooms at Cooley's campuses have been secured. Members of the training subcommittee are in the process of updating the training materials which are scheduled to be completed and submitted to Bar staff by July 15.

### SCAO Family Mediation Best Practices Project:

Members: Mary Lovik (chair); Bruce Petrick, Danielle Carter, Rebecca Shiemke, Judge Amy Ronayne Krause, Staff  
~March 12, 2012

M. Lovik provided an overview of the subcommittee's discussions regarding the conciliation process when there was no contact order in place. M. Lovik has drafted a letter which has been circulated to the Domestic Violence Committee. She asked the Committee members to provide additional suggestions and actual situation examples to incorporate into the letter. It was also suggested that they

recommend that joint conferences should be prohibited when there is an order, or joint orders forbidding contact.

A suggestion was made for recommending a court rule amendment be considered requiring courts to have separate meetings where domestic violence is a factor. They also discussed the practicalities of enforcing a court rule when orders were entered in different counties.

One member noted that conciliation meetings in Gratiot County end in an ex parte order being entered. A judge in Montcalm County has halted this procedure in their county. One of the problems with separate conciliations is that the offender gets to tell their story unchecked. It is hard to get orders entered in meetings that have no findings. N. Gallagher shared that Isabella County does conciliations on the record with a referee present, who then writes up a report for the Friend of the Court. She noted that the parties were given an opportunity to file an objection; however, a hearing may not happen for months and months.

A. Lowe expressed concern as to whether the Committee would be allowed to submit a letter like the one circulated. R. Mathis explained, after consulting with Elizabeth Lyon, that the Domestic Violence Committee would need to vote on their recommendation first, and then a public policy report would be submitted to the Board of Commissioners (BOC). The BOC will have the final say as to whether the Committee is granted permission to submit their letter. R. Mathis reiterated that Committee members are always welcome to advocate as individuals, but the DV Committee can not publicly advocate a public policy position that has not been adopted by the BOC unless authorized to do so.

M. Lovik is going to consult with the Family Law Section to get their input and insight. L. Pourzan expressed that it might be better to consider broader changes to the process.

Personal Protection Orders:

Members: Ashley Lowe (chair); Jennifer Lamp; Rebecca Shiemke, Sarah Prout, Katherine Strickfaden (guest member), Staff  
~March 13, 2012 (Meeting Cancelled)

The March Meeting was cancelled. J. Morrow will circulate a meeting wizard for the next meeting date.

A. Lowe discussed a field trip to the Solutions Oriented Domestic Violence Court (Wayne County) scheduled for April 12 at noon to meet with Katy Strickfaden and tour the Court. A. Lowe invited members to join her. She suggested that the visit might be a good opportunity to talk with Judge Halloran after the tour and hearings. Let A. Lowe know if you are interested in joining the field trip.

Legislative Subcommittee:

Members: Rebecca Shiemke (chair); Danielle Carter; Mary Lovik, Dana Warnez, Staff  
~No meeting

There had been some discussion on SB 989. However, E. Lyon reviewed and determined SB 989 to be not Keller permissible. There is no meeting scheduled for the future, as there is no legislation to review at this time.

IV. *Family Law Journal* Articles

1. May 2012 Issue – Family Court Orders, written by Judge Joseph Oster, due to editors M. Brown and S. Prout by March 24, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by April 8, 2012.

S. Prout volunteered to replace Judge Amy Ronayne Krause in the editing responsibility of Judge Oster's article.

2. June/July 2012 Issue – Batterers Intervention, written by Lisa Laurence and Sasha Robinson, due to editors D. Jackson and B. Petrick by April 24, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by May 8, 2012.

S. Prout will make contact with Lisa and Sasha – M. Lovik will send email contact information to J. Morrow.

3. August/September 2012 Issue – Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Relationships, written by S. Prout, due to editors L. Pourzan and R. Shiemke by June 22, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by July 8, 2012.

4. October 2012 Issue – \_\_\_\_\_, written by \_\_\_\_\_, due to editors \_\_\_\_\_ by 8/24/12. Due to the Journal Editor by September 8, 2012.

V. The next meetings of the Committee are:

- Tuesday, April 24, 2012 ~ 2-4 p.m. (Teleconference)
- Tuesday, May 15, 2012 ~ 2-4 p.m. (In Person)

It was decided that the May meeting would be "in person" and held at the State Bar. Members inquired as to term limits of the exiting members. There was interest in discussing the process to be re-elected. R. Mathis noted that the appointments run for a three-year term and each member can serve two consecutive terms. R. Mathis will be discussing DV Committee membership with the co-chairs in greater detail in the near future. The deadline for new applications is May 15.

The meeting was adjourned.