

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State Bar of Michigan Domestic Violence Committee**  
**April 18, 2009, 10:00 AM**

Attending: Mary Lovik (Co-Chair); Amanda Chubb (State Bar of Michigan Staff); Cathy Church; Hon. Elizabeth Eggert; Hon. Darnell Jackson; Gail Krieger; Janet Prater; Sarah Prout; Mary Rubio

Mary Lovik called the meeting to order

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Mary Lovik updated the group on the upcoming training on May 11. (When Caring Hurts: Avoiding Secondary Trauma and Burnout when Working with Victims of Domestic Violence) Members were encouraged to attend and to help publicize the event. Cathy Church volunteered to represent the DV Committee officially in Grand Rapids by making opening remarks to the group assembled there. Mary will arrange a conference call with herself, Cathy and Rebecca Shiemke to coordinate these remarks. Gail Krieger offered to help with registration and other tasks on site. Amanda Chubb will keep the group posted as to this type of need. For Committee members who cannot attend, training materials can be made available.

The current schedule of articles for the Family Law Journal was reviewed. Judge Eggert will contribute an article on Parental Alienation in June. Janet Prater and Gail Krieger will help edit. Cathy Church will do an article on GALs in August. Sarah Prout will do an article on DV and the Best Interest Factors in September. Mary Lovik will contact Lundy Bancroft to see if he will let us reprint one of his shorter articles on the batterer as parent in October.

Committee members noted that the Family Law Section Chair is interested in starting an initiative regarding Parental Alienation Syndrome. Rebecca Shiemke has requested to participate in this initiative and will report to the Committee next month. Mary Lovik noted that Lundy Bancroft was in Michigan recently as a guest of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and spoke to legislators about this subject, as well as joint custody and other issues relating to children exposed to domestic violence.

The following new business items were tabled:

- Letter to the federal bench/U.S. probation (Leslie Hagen)
- Training proposal for 2009 District Judges' Ass'n (Judges Hansen and Krause)

Members reported on their recent activities:

- Cathy Church has posted a domestic violence homicide list on the internet and will circulate the address for the Committee. Her organization (Access Justice Now) recently gave a Giving Voice to Victims award to Alger County Prosecutor Karen Bahrman for her work in People v Richardson, a recent

homicide case. This organization works to acknowledge the work of those working with victims of domestic violence.

- Judge Jackson reported that Peter Jaffe will be speaking in Saginaw on Sept. 25 on issues of children exposed to domestic violence. The audience is social workers, prosecutors, judges, anyone working with victims of domestic violence and their children. The event is sponsored by Underground Railroad.
- Janet Prater reported that she recently participated in a second biennial Breaking the Silence event in her area. One day was devoted to domestic violence and the second day was devoted to sexual assault. Mark Wynn, Sarah Deere, and Olga Trujillo presented.

Amanda Chubb reminded members to watch for an emailed message regarding Committee membership. Since the Committee is now a standing committee rather than a special committee, members will be appointed to serve for 3 year terms. Expiration dates for current members' terms have been randomly assigned, so some members will have to re-apply by May 15. Amanda will let affected members know. Members whose terms are not going to expire should also let the State Bar know if they are interested to continue membership. Please see <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/bylaws.cfm#6>. Members were encouraged to recruit new candidates for the Committee.

Next meetings will take place May 9, June 13, and July 25, all by phone conference at 10 am. The July agenda will include discussion of an in-person meeting and future meeting dates. Cathy Church suggested a virtual meeting site on the internet to facilitate meetings, and will forward the information for Amanda Chubb to review.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 am.