

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
February 21, 2012

The Committee met via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. Quorum met.

In attendance: Ashley Lowe (Co-chair), Sarah Prout (Co-chair), Leslie Hagen, Mary Lovik, Lori Pourzan, Nancy Gallagher, Delores Hall, Sarah Mason, Danielle Carter, Rebecca Shiemke, Jennifer Veronica Lamp, Dana Warnez (Commissioner Liaison), Robert Mathis (SBM Liaison), Janeice Morrow (SBM Liaison)

Absent: Michael Brown, Robert Coleman, Eilisia Schwarz, Jeannine Provencher Laible, Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Bruce Petrick, Cathy Church (*resignation submitted*)

- I. The January 2012 minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. Request for Assistance with State Bar Diversity and Inclusion Efforts – Greg Conyers, Director of Diversity, State Bar of Michigan –

A short presentation was given on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and discussed the expectation of a committee that signed the pledge. The Bar currently has over 700 signatories. Conyers invited the committee members to visit: <http://www.michbar.org/diversity> to learn more.

The committee voted unanimously to become a signatory to the Pledge on Diversity and Inclusion.

- III. Subcommittees: Meeting Updates and Reports

Training and System Education:

Lori Pourzan reported that a proposal has been submitted to provide training on “Fathering after Domestic Violence” at the Michigan Ass’n of Court Mediators at their annual conference at Crystal Mountain in October. Rob Mathis reported that the DV Pro Bono Training is set for October 26, 2012, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., with the live session occurring at Cooley’s Auburn Hills campus, which will be simultaneously broadcast to all of the other Cooley campuses in Michigan.

SCAO Family Mediation Best Practices Project:

Mary Lovik reported that nothing is currently pending before the subcommittee at this time. A question was raised as to whether conciliation would be a topic that the subcommittee would consider working on. Mary will report back to the Committee next month as to whether she can share the progress that her Board has made in the area of conciliation.

Personal Protection Orders:

Ashley Lowe discussed some of the goals and next steps of PPO Subcommittee. There was discussion on supporting a proposal to move non-domestic PPOs to the district court with the circuit court maintaining auxiliary jurisdiction. Ashley Lowe has been working on a proposal to that effect to be presented to the courts. There was inquiry as to whether the Domestic Violence Committee would support such a proposal.

Subcommittee guest, Katherine Strickfaden, of the Solutions Oriented Domestic Violence Court, would support a proposal to move non-domestic PPOs to district. Katherine presented an overview of how the process works at her court and the protocols they follow to maintain the safety of the parties. She invited all committee members for a visit to her court. Ashley Lowe expressed an interest in having Katherine Strickfaden become a member of the Domestic Violence Committee.

Mary Lovik, who has been working with Off the Ramp, was asked if there was anything being discussed relating to PPOs. There has been some discussion regarding the creation of a survey on parenting time when PPOs are in effect. The Subcommittee expressed an interest in following up on such a survey. Mary commented that that piece had been tabled by Off the Ramp and she was hopeful that the PPO Subcommittee would continue the effort.

A suggestion was made to invite Judge Amy Ronayne Krause to the next PPO Subcommittee meeting, to provide her perspective.

The next PPO Subcommittee meeting is March 13 at 3:00 PM

Legislative Subcommittee:

As provided by Rebecca Shiemke, the subcommittee has not met since the last DV Meeting as there is currently no legislation for their evaluation. The committee discussed that considerable time had been spent on determining whether legislation was Keller permissible. The committee decided that for all future legislation that the DV committee may be interested in reviewing, the legislation will be forwarded to Elizabeth Lyon for a Keller permissibility pre-determination. Committee members are still permitted to submit their own Keller permissibility argument as necessary.

Substitute SB 0547 and SB 0545 are still in workgroup sessions. An update on progress may be provided at a later date.

IV. *Family Law Journal* Articles

1. April 2012 Issue – Bullying, written by Lori Pourzan, due to editors S. Prout and D. Jackson by February 24, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by March 8, 2012. – *L. Pourzan expects to have article to editors by Feb 24.*

2. May 2012 Issue – Family Court Orders, written by Judge Joseph Oster, due to editors M. Brown and Judge Amy Ronayne Krause by March 24, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by April 8, 2012. – *Judge Oster has asked for any suggestions or comments on the criminal side of Family Court orders be forwarded to him.*
3. June/July 2012 Issue – Batterers in Redemption, 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.
4. August/September 2012 Issue – Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Relationships, written by Sarah Prout, due to editors Lori Pourzan and R. Shiemke by June 22, 2012. Due to Journal Editor by July 8, 2012.
5. October 2012 Issue – _____, written by _____, due to editors _____ by 8/24/12. Due to the Journal Editor by September 8, 2012.

V. Next meeting dates are:

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 ~ 2 – 4 pm

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 ~ 2 – 4 pm (*changed from April 17 due to a conflict with ICLE seminar*).

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.