

State Bar of Michigan
Domestic Violence Committee
Saturday June 21, 2008
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 am.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions** – Meeting was co-chaired by Mary Lovik and Rebecca Shiemke

The following people were in attendance:

In person - Janet Prater, Katherine Hansen, Candace Crowley, Mary Lovik, Rebecca Shiemke

By phone - Mary Rubio, Leslie Hagen, Charlotte Allen

Rebecca Shiemke took minutes

- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Vote was not taken to approve Minutes from the May 6, 2008 meeting due to lack of a quorum. There were no corrections to Minutes. Rebecca will circulate the minutes by email and ask for approval electronically.
- IV. **Report of the Chairs** –

Mary reported that there are two bills pending in the Michigan legislature that would authorize courts to impose a GPS (global positioning system) tether on defendants during the pre-trial release period. Although courts can already order this, the bill provides that victim participation is voluntary and requires informed consent. The bills have passed the House and were reported out of the Senate without amendments and are likely to pass.

Mary also reported that JWI (Jewish Women International) is sponsoring an audio training featuring Joan Meier discussing recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions impacting domestic violence. The training is June 26 at noon. Candace will forward the announcement to committee members.

Rebecca reported that the mandatory joint custody bill was before the House Judiciary Committee for a testimony-only hearing in May. There was no vote taken on the bill, which remains in committee. Our committee took a position opposing the bill.

- V. **Old Business** –

Update on judicial training – Rebecca reported that Judge Donna Milhouse, chair of the Michigan District Judges Assoc, emailed that the MDJA decided to include

a session on batterer intervention programs at their August annual meeting. She thanked the committee noted that our presentation helped convince them to include a domestic violence topic. She had also indicated that the assoc was approached by MJJ and Candace suggested that our committee approach MJJ to coordinate our efforts in a more formal way.

ICWA training update – We reviewed a copy of the agenda for the training in October. There is no session on domestic violence. We discussed whether there was any topic on the agenda that domestic violence could be woven into. Leslie will try to contact Julie, one of the planners, and Mary will contact Herb Tanner to see if he can connect Leslie with Julie. Candace suggested that Bill Gregory from the Indian Law Committee may be helpful and Leslie offered to contact him.

Family Law Journal – Cathy Church and Mary L. submitted our first article on PPOs and it was published in the most recent Journal. Cathy and Mary are working on a 2nd part to the article, which will be published in the next Journal, the August/September issue.

Heidi had offered to write an article on SLAPP suits for the October issue (due date Sept 8). Rebecca will confirm with Heidi.

Kay H. confirmed that Judge Amy Karan is interested in writing an article on firearms restrictions in DV cases and Herb Tanner is interested in working on it with her. Kay will confirm with Judge Karan and also ask whether this would be a 2-part series.

Charlotte A. would like to write an article where she interviews a tribal judge about DV in the Native American community. She will talk to the judge and confirm. Tentatively set for the Dec. issue (due Nov 8).

Rebecca S. offered to write an article about why training on DV is important to attorneys. Tentatively set for the Jan. issue (due Dec 8).

Kay H. expressed an interested in finding someone to write an article about DV in households of returning Iraq soldiers. Debbie Tucker in Texas developed a military protocol for DV and would be a resource. Kay H. also suggested DV in consumer collections and has a possible writer in mind. Candace suggested we may also want to publish with the Consumer group.

Process: Discussed the need for some quality control and editorial support. Agreed articles should be submitted 2 weeks before the FLJ submission date (8th of the month) to a 3 person editorial board. Leslie suggested a review based on topic. Mary will contact Elizabeth Eggert, who previously expressed an interest in editing, to ask if she would agree to be the editorial coordinator. Members

would submit a list of their areas of expertise to her and she would choose 2 others for each article.

Agreed on the following process:

- Writer submits article 2 weeks in advance to editorial board with 1 member as coordinator
- Board reviews and returns to writer with comments
- Mary will ask Elizabeth to be the editorial coordinator and for each article will choose 2 other readers based on expertise
- Members will prepare a list of areas of expertise and bring to the next meeting
- Rebecca will check with FLJ whether articles may be reprinted in other publications
- Members who suggested tentative articles should confirm at the next meeting

Grand Rapids DV Court Initiative – Rebecca reported that she talked to Leslie Curry with Legal Aid of Western Michigan about this initiative. Leslie indicated the process has been delayed and probably won't be implemented until October at the earliest.

Committee Membership – Janet Welch will recommend that our committee become a standing committee, which means that membership is set at 15 and members will have assigned terms. This will happen at the next Board of Commissioners meeting on July 25. Four members are resigning and we have one new member, Sarah Prout. Judge Amy Krause from Ingham County and Gail Kreiger from the MDVPTB have expressed an interest and Candace suggested they contact her.

VI. **Good of the Order** – None

VII. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be by phone on August 2, 2008 at 10:00 am. The committee agreed to skip July.

VIII. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.