

**State Bar of Michigan  
Domestic Violence Committee  
Minutes of meeting on 5/9/2009**

**Present:** Mary Lovik (took minutes), Janet Prater, Christine Pfeiffer, Rebecca Shiemke, Lorna Beard, Amanda Chubb, Gail Krieger, Elizabeth Eggert, Leslie Hagen, Sarah Prout, Guerline Laurore

**Approval of minutes from last meeting 4/18/2009:** No corrections noted by group. Minutes approved.

**Old Business**

1. *Family Law Journal:*
  - a. International parental kidnapping article submitted for June/July edition.
  - b. Debby Tucker's article, part II, appeared in last edition.
  - c. Elizabeth Eggert is still working on parental alienation for Aug/Sept. edition.
  - d. Sarah Prout will be writing about best interest factors for the fall.
  - e. Mary Lovik has spoken with Lundy Bancroft and he will let us reprint two of his articles in some form. Members suggested a 3 part series integrated with Sarah Prout's article.
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> article - Batterer as parent (Lundy, with update 9/24).
    - ii. 2d part - legal analysis (Sarah Prout 10/24).
    - iii. 3d part - risks to children from exposure to batterer (Lundy, with update 11/24). Mary Lovik to follow up with Lundy. Rebecca Shiemke to write introduction to the series. Editors: Christine Pfeiffer and Elizabeth Eggert for all 3. Guerline Laurore for best interests article.
  - f. Gail Krieger is interested to summarize information gathered from the secondary trauma workshop; will discuss further after she has attended the training.
  - g. Rebecca Shiemke is interested to work on article about finding PPO petitioners in contempt for "invited" violations.
  - h. Elizabeth Eggert is interested to discuss mutual PPOs.
2. *May 11 training event:*
  - a. 97 registrants - 50+ in Auburn Hills; 25+ in Lansing; 20+ in Grand Rapids
  - b. All arrangements set
  - c. Materials will be sent to members who cannot attend.

**New Business**

1. *Parenting coordinator committee:* Rebecca Shiemke reported that parental alienation issues are being included in this committee, but will not be a major focus. Chairs: Judge Richard Halloran and Kent Weichman. Members are mostly parenting coordinators. Committee will first study parenting coordination state- and nationwide, and then consider whether it will make recommendations on court rules or statutes. Many committee members want a statute or court rule authorizing parenting coordination; one concern is about immunity for themselves. Rebecca has alerted the parenting coordinator committee to issues of domestic violence, low income litigants. Suggestion made from Sarah Prout that promulgating criteria for parenting coordination/coordinators would be helpful. Family law section members welcome to join still. Send any materials to Rebecca.
2. *Federal bench/US probation training:* Leslie Hagen contacted head of US probation in Western District, and Chief Judge in Marquette, both of whom expressed interest in training.

Need to get an agreeable date and put together materials. Possible to share information with Eastern District by doing the training twice. Indian country issues particularly pressing. Also need information on nature/prevalence, interstate crimes, PPO violations. Leslie and Janet Prater will collaborate to come up with agenda and speakers and will present an action plan for the next meeting on June 13. They will contact Cathy Church and Charlotte Allen as well.

3. *Traumatic brain injury*: Deferred.
4. *2009 District Judges meeting*: Deferred.
5. *Training in Oct., 2009 for pro bono attorneys*:
  - a. Sarah Prout reported that Wayne State's Free Legal Aid Committee and Carlo Martina would like to improve access to representation pro bono in custody cases, focusing on metro area, maybe whole state. Will seek participation from U of M, Cooley, and Wayne Law Schools. She is drafting a proposal to bring in Lundy Bancroft to present in the morning, with the afternoon devoted to practical tools for attorneys. Other trainers not yet identified. Would be structured a lot like the May 11, 2009 training. Sarah seeks the philosophical support of the DV Committee for her proposal letter for this project. She does not yet have information about program costs beyond the speaker. The DV committee budget is not yet set, but a monetary contribution could be considered after the start of the new fiscal year. Gail Krieger suggested looking for another group to share the costs of the speaker. Committee members were asked to consider sources of funding and materials (e.g., sample pleadings).
  - b. Rebecca Shiemke suggested that a more experienced audience be targeted; however, Sarah Prout noted that it is easier to engage newer attorneys. Guerline Laureore noted it is good to engage attorneys earlier in their careers. Sarah noted that Lundy would appeal to both audiences. Elizabeth Eggert noted that mentors are important for inexperienced attorneys. Sarah's proposal includes mentorship for participants. Guerline would be willing to serve as a mentor.
  - c. Amanda Chubb indicated that if the Committee supported this proposal, the Bar could help with publicity.
  - d. Committee voted unanimously to support the proposal. Sarah Prout to report back on progress.
6. *Request for model probation conditions*: Mary Lovik was contacted by a judge requesting suggestions for model probation conditions for DV misdemeanants and convicted felons; she requested members to forward her any suggestions to send to the judge.
7. *VAWA fix it bill SB 327 (Leahy)*: Leslie Hagen will forward information on the progress of this bill to the group.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Next meeting June 13, 10 a.m. on State Bar conference line.