

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
SECTIONS

Bar Year: 2007-2008

Section Name: Children's Law Section

Mission Statement: The Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues regarding juvenile justice, whether it be child protection cases or juvenile delinquency, through meetings, seminars, the State Bar website, public service programs and publication of the Children's Law Journal. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer Name Address Telephone Email

Chair

Mary C. Pino 100 E. State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879 989-224-5266 PinoM@Clinton-County.org

Chair-Elect

Jenifer Pettibone

Secretary

Katrina Dawn Martin

Treasurer

John H. McKaig

Member Term

Suzanne Culliton Stephan Expiring 2008

R. William Schooley Expiring 2010

Jennifer D. Wood Expiring 2008

Carol Siemon Expiring 2010

Shannon Schlegel Expiring 2008

John Forczak Expiring 2009

Jennifer A. Pilette Expiring 2009

Amanda L. Roggenbuck Expiring 2009

Robin Mahal Expiring 2009

Alicia M. Fabiano Expiring 2010

William E. Ladd Expiring 2010

Jodi M. Latuszek Expiring 2010

Council Meeting Schedule:

The Council for the Section meets monthly. Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday following the first Monday of the month. This year the meetings were all held in Lansing at the State Bar Building with the exception of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was a business and presentation meeting and held in conjunction with the State Bar Meeting in Dearborn. Meetings are open to all members and attendance is welcome with dinner provided. Members of the Council or Section who are unable to attend in person are also welcome to attend council meetings by conference call.

Meeting Type Date Location

Annual Meeting with State Bar Convention Sept. 28, 07 Grand Rapids. MI

Monthly Oct. 17, 2007 Lansing

Monthly Nov. 14, 2007 Lansing

Monthly Dec. 12, 2007 Lansing

Monthly Jan. 9, 2008 Lansing

Monthly Feb. 13, 2008 Lansing

Monthly March 12, 2008 Lansing

Monthly April 16, 2008 Lansing

Monthly May 14, 2008 Lansing

Monthly June 11, 2008 Lansing

Monthly July 9, 2008 Lansing

Annual Meeting with State Bar Convention Sept. 19, 2008 Dearborn

The year began with the Annual Meeting in Dearborn. Speakers included Robin Nixon, Executive Director of the National Foster Care Coalition in Washington D. C., and a panel of Shannon Gibson, DHS Independent Living Coordinator, Anita Peters, DHS Permanency Planning and Tawny Concienne and Letitia Silva, who spoke of their transitions into adulthood from foster care. Initiatives targeting improvement of services for youth transitioning from foster care as well as what's been accomplished were discussed. The Chair urged the Section to make every effort to assist in improving the lives of foster children transitioning out of the system to help ensure positive outcomes for them. In Jan. 2008, the Council continued looking into youth transition. Shannon Brower, the Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative Coordinator, and Sally Purcell from the Michigan Lawyer's Auxiliary talked about their efforts and interests in the area as well.

The Council actively discussed pending legislation affecting children. Over the course of the year, the Council received and discussed reports from Bill Kandler, the Section's lobbyist, and the legislative committee dealing with numerous House and Senate Bills submitted in the legislature affecting children's law issues. This year, this ranged from pending legislation which included Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to the proposed child welfare statutory amendments and whether children should be present at hearings.

In conjunction with the MSU Chance at Childhood Program, the MSU School of Social Work, the MSU College of Law with funding from the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, the Section publishes the Child Welfare Journal. We also provide liaisons to the Family Law, Criminal Law and Amicus Sections. We considered requests for Amicus briefs to be provided by our Section. We continued to discuss efforts to increase membership. The Council also focused on Act 150 cases, made plans for the SCAO-Foster Youth Video Project and discussed the children's rights initiative lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Human Services. By-laws were also updated.

In addition, the Council, along with SCAO, co-sponsored the December 10, 2008, Program regarding medical training and child maltreatment cases. We are looking forward to presenting a program at the Annual Meeting with the MCI Superintendent on Sept. 19, 2008, with a question and answer period and a legal update. A program in the spring of 2009 will cover issues related to juvenile immigration, as well as the representation of children in special education matters and in accessing mental health services. In addition to the exciting new program planned in the next year, updates are planned for the Children's Law Section website. Several additions and changes are planned to make it more useful for members as well as for the public.

The Council welcomes your suggestions and involvement. Feel free to contact and join us.