

Children's Law Section State Bar of Michigan

Annual Report
2008-2009

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.

Vision Statement: The members of the Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, understanding that it is a privilege to assist Michigan's children under the jurisdiction of this state's legal system, are dedicated to the highest legal and ethical standards of representation and advocacy. We will advocate for the best interests of children in all areas of their lives by providing support and training for our members and others and advocating public advocacy issues directly affecting children.

Officers:

Chair: Jenifer L. Pettibone (P60864)
Chair Elect: John H. McKaig II (P24701)
Secretary: Robinjit Eagleson (P70499)
Treasurer: Jodi M. Latuszk (P74538)

Council Members:

Term Expires 9/30/2009

John Forzak (P25364)
Jennifer A. Pilette (P30489)
Amanda L. Roggenbuck (P63764)
Christine Piatkowski (P564920)
Stacey Pfarrer (P69311)

Term Expires 9/30/2010

Alicia M. Fabiano (P62872)
William E. Ladd (P30671)
R. William Schooley (P29329)
Carol Seimon (P32946)
Debra Davis (P70834)

Term Expires 9/30/2011

Karen Cook (P26141)

Suzanne Stephan (P57289)

Katrina Martin (P62506)

Robbie Powelson (P43326)

Shannon Schlegel (P63191)

Section Meetings:

The Children's Law Section meets monthly, on the third Thursday of each month. Participants are welcome to attend in person, at the State bar Building, or attend via conference call. The call in number is provided on the agenda that is sent out via the Children's List Serv so all members are welcome to participate.

The September 2008 annual meeting included speakers William Johnson, MCI superintendent and William Schooley, attorney. Mr. Johnson discussed his role as MCI superintendent and Mr. Schooley provided the section with a legal update.

The Children's Law Section has three active committees. The education committee, chair Christine Piatkowski, legislative committee, chair Jack McKaig, and the Amicus committee, chair, Jodi Latuszek. Their accomplishments are listed in the Section Committees section of this report. The Section also has members active in other ad hoc committees. (State committee info here.)

Finally, the Section has liaisons for both the Criminal Law Section, and the family Law Section. Currently we are getting members involved with several ad hoc committees initiated by the Family Law Section.

Section Committees:

Education committee: The education committee hosted the Annual Children's Law Section Conference on May 8, 2009. Jodi Latuszek was the acting chair and organized the annual training at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth. The training was made available to judges, attorney, and social workers. 6.5 CEU's were offered for attendance for MSW's. The training was a great success. Thursday night prior the training, the education committee hosted a meet and greet for section members and training attendee's. Currently, Christine Piatkowski, chair, is starting to make plans for the 2010 annual conference. It is anticipated the annual training will again be held at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth.

Legislative Committee: Jack McKaig chairs this committee and works with lobbyist, William Kandler. Currently the committee has reviewed several new pieces of legislation and has provided feedback to the legislator's. The committee is scheduled to

meet with the Children and Families Committee to work toward creating a better working relationship.

Amicus Committee: The amicus committee has been extremely busy this year, providing several amicus briefs to the Michigan Supreme Court. In re Rood, In re Lee and In re Hudson. The Supreme Court as requested input on other matters, however, the committee did not recommend action at this time regarding those cases. Jodi Latuszek worked on drafting and/or edited each amicus brief. She has done an outstanding service to the section.

General Budget Information:

Children's Law Section annual budget is based on section membership dues and the annual conference. Section membership rate has not increased this year, although the section has considered this. At this time however, it is felt we can meet our needs with the current budget.

Overall, this has been a very productive year for the Children's Law Section. We are striving to increase voice regarding important issues surrounding children and their families, develop relationships and build on our reputation. This year we have been invited by the Supreme Court, on several occasions, to file amicus briefs. Additionally, policy makers had been requesting our input on bills they are drafting.