

Family Law Section meeting September 12, 2009 at 9:30 am

Meeting was called to order by Section Chair Pamela Waggoner; 31 members in attendance introduced themselves and described something they did during the summer.

Minutes of the May meeting were just made available, and have now been distributed. Approval of May Minutes, along with September Minutes, can take place at the next Section meeting on October 10.

Ryan Anderson, Section Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting but a Financial Report, showing income and expenses for the last fiscal year through May 31, 2009 was available.

Report from the executive committee:

- Pamela reported that Referee Eugene Kubes was injured recently in a fall at his home. The Section will send a card and flowers.

- Attendees at AAML's annual "Divorce Camp," (October 1 through 4, 2009) will be drafting a proposed rewrite of the Rules of Family Court Procedure. The Executive Committee wants to get more MSBA members involved in this process, particularly those who practice in greater Minnesota. To that end, the Executive Committee voted to appropriate \$5000 toward providing scholarships, of up to \$500 per person, to applicants who: 1) are Section members; 2) are located in Minnesota outside of the 2nd and 4th Judicial Districts; 3) enroll in "Divorce Camp" by September 18, 2009; 4) submit proof of their enrollment to Mary Lauhead by September 18.

- "Nine Days in June" is MSBA's new format for the 2010 Bar Convention. Instead of a three-day state convention, there will be nine one-day events. The first eight days will be held in the eight greater Minnesota judicial districts. The final day will be in the Metro area on June 24th, will include the "State of the Judiciary" address and the President's Reception, and MSBA members throughout the state will be invited. "Nine Days in June" will be free of charge except for the cost of meals, etc. Sections are being asked whether they wish to provide one-hour CLE presentations to be used at any or all of the one-day programs. The Family Law Section will plan on developing a CLE for this purpose.

Amicus committee: No report

Domestic Abuse committee:

- The DA Committee met once during the summer, and will be working on developing a set of training modules on domestic violence.
- This year marks the 30th anniversary of Minnesota's Domestic Abuse Act, and the October issue of *Bench & Bar* will include a feature on this milestone.
- It is also the 20th anniversary of the final report of the Minnesota Supreme Court's Task Force for Gender Fairness in the Courts. On October 27th, Minnesota Women Lawyers will sponsor a luncheon and CLE to review what has changed in the past 20 years. This event will be held at the Crowne Plaza in St Paul. The cost to attend is \$25.
- Linda Wold serves on the Hennepin County Family Violence Coordinating Committee. The committee has decided to distribute the "Bench Card" on domestic violence that was developed by the DA Committee several years ago.
- The Committee meets at noon after the Section meeting, and all interested Section members are welcome to participate.

Strategic Planning committee: No report

Publications committee:

- Linda Wold, the editor of the *Family Law Forum*, announced that the December 1st issue, on the theme "Pesky Problems in Family Law," now has eight or nine confirmed articles. The submission deadline is November 1st.
- The Committee welcomes new members as well as prospective authors for *Forum* content.

Legislative Committee:

- The Committee met on September 10th, will next meet on October 8th, and will meet on the first Thursday of each month from then on. Meetings are at 5:30 pm at the offices of Glen Norton, the Section's Legislative Chair, 6160 Summit Drive North in Brooklyn Center, in the third floor conference room. All Section members are invited; in addition, the Committee welcomes and will consider comments submitted in advance by email.

- There may be 200 or more bills that may have an impact on family law. The Committee will try to develop a system to keep up with pending and proposed legislation. Glen circulated a sign-up sheet so interested Section members can receive emailed updates.

- At a future meeting, Glen will demonstrate how to track legislation at the legislature's website.

- The Committee is looking at several proposals that have come through the Uniform Laws Commission, on subjects including: Testimony by Child Witnesses, Collaborative Law, Abduction Prevention, and Arbitration. Ellen Abbott mentioned that the Uniform Arbitration Act has now been fully vetted by the ADR Section and others. The Section has taken a position in opposition to the proposed Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act, but there was some discussion, with no consensus, whether that position was primarily based on the fact that the Section had not had enough time to review it.

- The texts of proposed uniform laws are available at the Uniform Laws Commission's website: nccusl.org

- Glen also prepared a written report of the Committee's work, which is attached to these notes.

New business:

- Nominations for the Dawn Carlson Family Advocate Award are open until September 29. The award was established in memory of Dawn Carlson, a staff attorney at Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota, and honors practitioners who show dedication and skill in helping low-income clients with family law issues.

- Ellen Abbott attended a recent meeting of the HCBA family law section. There was a "State of the Judiciary" presentation there. Among the announcements: ITV will be used in courtrooms by the end of this year, and there is a pilot program being developed to handle post-decree case management.

Present at section meeting:

Ellen Abbott
Mark Betters
Patrick Burns
Don Enockson
Margaret Erickson
Bill Fehn
Loretta Frederick
Laura Fretland
Rana Fuller
Ben Griffith
Melinda Hugdahl
Judy Johnson
Mary Lauhead
Mark Lazar
Mary Lou Klas
Bil Mullin
Glen Norton
Pat O'Gorman
Melvin Ogurik
Cindy Perusse
Tami Peterson
Cheryl Prince
Barb Runchey
Steve Snyder
Heidi Swisher
Rebecca Vandenberg
Gary Voegele
Pamela Waggoner
Kathy Wagner
Laura Weintraub
Linda Wold
Linda Wray