

Family Law Section
Saturday, January 9, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Section Chair, Pamela Waggoner.

New attendees were introduced.

Pamela Waggoner introduced those participating in Satellite Meetings which included meetings held in Duluth, Bemidji, Northfield and Mankato.

The Minutes from the December meeting will be posted on the Family Law Section website and will be submitted for approval at the next Section meeting.

Report of the Chair:

- A. Pamela Waggoner introduced the kick-off of the Satellite Meetings.
- B. The meeting for the FastCase reporting of District Court opinions will be held on February 4, 2010. Pamela will attend.
- C. A reminder that the Family Law Institute will be held on March 23 & 24, 2010 at the River Centre in St. Paul, Minnesota.
 - There are Family Law Institute scholarships available to defray the cost of attending the Institute. Call Minnesota CLE at 651-227-8266 if interested.

Treasurer's Report submitted and approved.

Committee Reports:

- A. Amicus committee: no report.
- B. Domestic Abuse Committee:
 - Loretta Frederick reported that the Committee is working on a module on domestic violence risk assessment and screening. The Committee hopes to present this module during the "9 days in June" event.
- C. Strategic Planning Committee:
 - One of the missions of the Family Law Section is to enhance and promote leadership of the Section.
 - There was a motion and a second to create up to five \$1,000 annual scholarships for those members of the Section who are on the Executive Committee. The scholarships would be used to defray the costs of attending national Conventions and meetings for those serving in leadership roles to encourage Section leadership development and Section visibility.

- After much discussion, a motion was made and passed to refer this matter back to the Strategic Planning Committee to discuss whether some of the scholarships should be targeted for general membership of the Section, particularly to those members who attend regularly.
- D. Publications Committee. The next publication of the Forum is at press.
- E. Legislation Committee:
- The Legislative Chair, Glen Norton, discussed the Uniform Collaborative Law Act. The MSBA Assembly sent this proposal back for further study. Apparently, other Sections (e.g. the Solo and Small Firm and the Probate and Trust Sections) opposed the passage of the Uniform Collaborative Act. There was a motion and a second to adopt a “Section Only” position to study and move forward on the passage of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act. There was a motion and second to oppose the motion which was approved by a majority vote with several abstentions.
 - There was a suggestion made to research the feasibility of the Legislation Committee using “conference calling” capability so that all persons desiring to participate in the Committee could attend by telephone. Currently, the meetings are held at Glenn Norton’s office which is located in northern Minneapolis. It was suggested that conference-calling ability may facilitate greater participation by those living in other parts of the metro area, as well as those living and/or officing in greater Minnesota.

New Business and Miscellaneous:

- A. There will be an amendment to change in the Section By-Laws to re-define and/or expand the composition of the Family Law Section Executive Council. The proposed changes will be published/posted on the Section website in the near future. Please refer to the Family Law Section web site to review the proposed changes as it will be necessary to vote on the proposed By-law changes at the February meeting.
- B. Barbara Gislason requested that the Chair request a 90 day extension of time to submit comment on the proposed amendments to Rules 1.5(b) and 1.15(c) of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct as it relates to non-refundable retainer fees so that a special committee of interested persons can convene and report back to the Section what impact such amendments may have on family law practitioners. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed with several abstentions. Volunteers to serve on the Special Sub-committee were taken. Barbara

Gislason will convene the Sub-committee and report will be made to the Section at the February meeting.

- C. It was mentioned that the Judicial Branch has issued an Access and Service Delivery report which can be located at the Minnesota Judicial Branch web site. Apparently, the Court is looking for comments regarding judicial unit facilities, budget issues, etc. The Report is attached.
- D. It was also brought up that there is a DHS Child Support Delivery Study Report which can be located at the DHS website under Child Support. There is no invitation to comment on this study.
- E. Finally, there is a Hennepin County Bench Order on the procedure for Assisted Reproductive Technology matters in Hennepin County. If you have any questions, Steve Snyder indicated he would be willing to discuss the procedure. His number is 763-420-6700.
- F. A reminder was made that the February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2010 due to the Presidents' Day Holiday weekend when the Section usually meets.

The Meeting was Adjuourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara J. Runchey