

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE  
Saturday, January 26, 2008 Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at

II. Welcome and Introductions-

The meeting was co-chaired by Rebecca Schiemke and Mary Lovik.

The following people were in attendance either in person or via teleconference:

Elias Escobedo, Elizabeth Eggert, Judge Katherine Hansen  
Heidi Nasko, Janet Prater, Mary W. Rubio, Judge Darnell  
Jackson, Danielle Pugh-Markie from NCJFCJ

Judge Hansen took the minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes-

Minutes from the November 17, 2007 meeting were approved with the following correction:

HB 5324, Mary Lovik didn't participate in the discussion

IV. Report of the Co-Chairs

Candace Crowley's absence excused, due to her attending the funeral of Kim Cahill

V. Old Business

A. Update on Judicial Training – Candace Crowley made inquiries of MJI and getting their advice regarding do-able format and potential times.

There is no statewide MJI for 2008.

Dawn McCarty suggested the State Bar Meeting (in September), or perhaps a single topic could be prepared as a 50 minute presentation with ICLE in November with Family Law Section Meeting..

Potential topics were discussed with Danielle regarding new research, nature dynamics, vicarious trauma, National Council and custody and visitation evaluations.

Judge Jackson suggested postcard/email survey.

Rebecca Schiemke suggested smaller venues like District, Circuit or Probate Court conferences.

Question, how much time we need to allot? Perhaps two presentations, about 50 minutes each.

Janet Prater inquired what judges attend these conferences. Are these Upper Conferences in Mackinac? Could we add another SE show and even with ICLE, we need venue judges are interested in.

Elias Escobedo discussed that the OCBA sponsors bench/bar conferences and asked whether this is a venue? He indicated these are usually ½ day – 1 day conferences. The Executive Director is Lisa Stadig. Typically the circuit court conference is in the spring and the district is in the fall. If these are upcoming events, we need to survey.

Some of the listed topics could be listed on the survey to see how many are interested versus wide open request for topics.

Elizabeth Eggert mentioned a question we might ask is: As a judge, what issues involving domestic violence do you encounter, what topics would you like training on, and what suggestions would you provide to assist other judges in deciding domestic violence issues.

Rebecca Schiemke suggested contacting the chairs of district court, circuit court, probate court and judicial associations to get answers. She will see what the response rate is. She also mentioned survey consumers-coalitions. Are there challenges individuals coming through court face in court?

Mary Rubio offered to inquire at the agency/director's meeting and to talk to Michigan Coalition of Domestic Violence.

Judge Jackson wondered if this is just an issue for circuit chief judges to answer? Maybe if this survey comes from the State Bar, will that make it more likely to get responses? Is this a strategy for venues?

Elizabeth Eggert gave some suggestions for the structure of the survey: Issues in court, custody, nature and dynamics-differentiating the abuse, vicarious trauma, how balancing safety of kids with violence issues of children, parental alienation, probation department, police department response, most pressing needs. Elizabeth will develop and send to Candace Crowley who will circulate.

Danielle Pugh-Markie mentioned that sometimes judges come, but what if their CJ's may not buy in later.

Rebecca Schiemke will check if there's a CJ association.

Elizabeth Eggert will get a committee plan to set survey questions and identify who to ask: 1) local prosecutors, 2) all judges, including a question “what you don’t know”

B. TO DO:

Gather conference dates, possible agenda  
MDJA – Judge Hansen  
Circuit Court – Judge Jackson  
Probate – May – August 17-20, Thompsonville  
OCBA – Judge Hansen  
Other Bench/Bar conferences –  
Chief Judge Association –  
Rebecca Schiemke, Action plan to come ASAP

VI. New Business

NCJFCJ survey sent on email on 1/15/08. Please complete. If you need the email again, please contact Candace Crowley or Rebecca Schiemke.

Rebecca reports on HB 5324, requires all PPO’s to be mutual and the commissioners oppose.

ABA committee on DV is seeking BP in domestic violence/criminal matters. Does anyone know of mediation projects in domestic violence?

Regarding the HB 5598, Mary Lovik excludes herself in this discussion. Discussion was held. An email will be sent asking members to vote to support or not. Keller permissible due to matters related to judicial efficiency.

B. Good of the Order.

C. Next meeting will be a phone meeting on Saturday, 2/23/08 at noon.