

Domestic Violence Committee Meeting  
6/13/09

Present: Judge Amy Krause, Gail Krieger, Mary Lovik, Janet Prater, Rebecca Shiemke

Rebecca Shiemke will send May minutes for approval by electronic vote. Members present voted to approve minutes pending a quorum.

***Family Law Journal:***

- Elizabeth Eggert is scheduled to do an article on parental alienation for the July issue. Her piece is due June 24 to editors and July 8 to publisher. Janet Prater and Gail Krieger will edit. Janet will follow up with Elizabeth.
- Mary Lovik reported on a proposal for a series of articles in the fall authored by Lundy Bancroft and Sarah Prout, and will follow up with them about this.
- Rebecca Shiemke will send a reminder to Cathy Cathy Church about her article, which Judge Krause will edit.
- Gail Krieger offered to write an article with Judge Carol Hackett Garagiola about using Batterer Intervention Services in family court.
- A suggestion was made by Janet Prater to try to get another Mich. Bar Journal issue devoted to domestic violence. Judge Krause would like to do an article on best practices at arraignment. Mary Lovik suggested that such an issue could highlight promising practices for addressing domestic violence that are being implemented statewide. Mary will follow up with Amanda to gather information about how this might be accomplished.

***Vicarious Trauma Training:*** Mary reported on the feedback from the vicarious trauma training, which was positive. Amanda Chubb will present a more detailed assessment next meeting.

***Parenting coordinator committee:*** Rebecca Shiemke reported that this committee is reviewing current literature, statutes, and materials to come up with some recommendations for future action. Rebecca is advocating for the interests of domestic violence survivors and low income litigants. The parenting coordinators in this group are concerned with liability issues and their legal authority to act.

***Federal probation/bench training:*** Janet Prater reported that she and Cathy Church will be helping Leslie Hagen with this. Leslie needs to do some preliminary work before a proposal can be submitted for probation officers.

***2009 District Judges' meeting:*** Judge Krause reported that it is too late to get on the 2009 agenda. She will speak with Judges Tom Boyd and Kay Hansen about the agenda for 2010.

***Pro Bono Training:*** Rebecca Shiemke reported on conversations she and Mary Lovik have had with Carlo Martina, Chair of the Family Law Section. Carlo seeks to organize a training event in October that will encourage attorneys to take pro bono cases involving

domestic violence. Carlo has rejected a proposal adopted in May by the Domestic Violence Committee to bring in a national speaker for a whole day event. He envisions a traveling team of local speakers to present at half day events in courthouses in some of the larger counties (e.g., Wayne County, Oakland County, Kent County). This training would be free to attorneys committing to take a case pro bono. Sponsorship for this event is needed from local bar associations or from the Domestic Violence Committee. The Family Law Section is willing to provide some funding for this proposal.

Committee members present reached consensus was that the time frame for planning an event like this is too short. The group was also concerned that requirement to take a pro bono case would deter participation. Members present suggested that the committee work on its own next fiscal year to organize a pro bono event of this type, perhaps in partnership with Young Lawyers' Section and/or clinics at law schools. This event would probably take place some time early in 2010. Rebecca will communicate with Carlo.

***HB 5036:*** Tabled until next meeting. Mary Lovik will contact committee members to remind them to think about possible negative and positive impacts of this bill well in advance of the next meeting.