

Minutes
Family Law Section Meeting
February 25, 2016
4:00 pm
Bayard, P.A.

Attendees:

In person: Shauna Hagan, Patrick Boyer, George Tsakataras, Pete Clark, and Bonnie Copeland

By Telephone: Julie Yeager, Addie Asay, Suzanne Seubert, Megan Walstrom , Kathy Laffey, Tracy Pearson, and Janine Howard-O'Rangers

I. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the January 28, 2016 meeting were approved after adding Julie Yeager as an attendee.

II. Good and Welfare: Congratulations to Laura Brooks, who had twin boys!

III. Liaison Issues:

- Suzanne Seubert's staff was told that file and petition numbers are not assigned for two weeks. Addie Asay said that is not a policy and perhaps there is a backlog in processing that is creating a delay. Addie will look into it.
- Patrick Boyer asked about scheduling custody hearings after failed mediations
 - Scheduling of custody hearings is done by each individual judge's chambers
 - If it is a new case, how should the attorney follow up if nothing scheduled?
 - Contact the Call Center to identify the assigned judge and then contact chambers
- Court-appointed attorneys are requesting a form motion to seek attorney's fees (\$60/hour)
- Custody and guardianship forms have been revised to add a checkbox for federal immigration cases
- Patrick Boyer was asked to bring up an issue that one attorney had where ancillary jurisdiction retention was not reflected on the commissioner's order – it does not seem to be a widespread problem

IV. Old Business:

- Draft Form 16(b)(3) is being sent to Addie Asay for approval by the judges, noting the concern expressed by section members that the form is seeking some possible admissions against interest, especially concerning drug use

- Opportunity available for someone to write a scholarly legal article

V. New Business:

- C.J. Strine asked George Tsakataras to raise the issue to the section that perhaps we should create a practice and procedures manual for Family Court. Shauna indicated some of this work has been done as part of the New Lawyers' Survival Guide. Email George at georgetsakataras@bgplegal.com if you are interested in joining a committee. This item shall be added to the March agenda.
- To be added to March agenda: section members to offer insights about what they have seen from the 3 new judges; Judge Kerr, Judge Haskins and Judge Rangl
 - Julie Yeager offered that Judge Kerr issued an interim alimony order in one of her cases using the share-the-shortfall approach and Judge Kerr stated in the pre-trial conference that she had not yet made up her mind whether a share-the-shortfall approach was appropriate in the context of permanent alimony (this was a over 20-year long marriage). The case settled prior to the permanent alimony hearing.

Next Meeting: The next Section meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at Bayard.