

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW SECTION COUNCIL
MINUTES
Friday, June 12, 2009**

The Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

1. Introduction of members and guests.
2. The minutes of the May, 2009 meeting were approved.
3. Membership directory update. Dorothy Lennig circulated an updated membership directory for council members and past chairs to update.
4. **SIP Fund. The SIP Fund for 2009 – 2010 is \$100. Members were asked to send their checks to Dodie Fait, 1 Church Street, Suite 800, Rockville, MD, 20850.**
5. Meetings for 2009 -2010 will be on the following dates:

September 9, 2009

October 14, 2009

November 18, 2009 (Note the November meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday).

December 9, 2009

January 13, 2010

February 10, 2010

March 10, 2010

April 14, 2010

May 12, 2010

Locations for meetings will be announced.

6. Subcommittee assignments. FJLSC members were asked to volunteer to serve on one or more of the following committees.
 - a. MICPEL – Erin Gable and Renee Ades will co-chair the MICPEL committee. They announced that they are looking for topics and speakers for the Family Law University Program to be held in February. The following speakers were suggested for the Tax Workshop: Sheila Sachs, Tom Ries, Marcia Fidis, David DeJong, and Ted Hirsh. Erin Gable raised the issue of whether we should conduct a more advanced program for the Family Law evening series.
 - b. Newsletter – Walter Herbert reported that the June newsletter has been printed but it has not been sent out yet.
 - c. Legislation – Dodie Fait and Craig Little will co-chair the legislation committee.

1. Summer activity. The legislation committee will meet during the summer to begin to create a legislative agenda to present to the Council in the fall.
2. New legislation – Mary Sanders suggested supporting a bill to allow uncontested divorces by affidavit. It was suggested to start with uncontested, 2 year separation divorces. A good argument for this bill is the amount of court time it would save.

Delegate Dumais reported that the custody bill would be filed again this year.

Delegate Dumais also reported that the child support revisions that were filed during the last session were sent to summer study. This means that there will be a briefing on the bill in the fall. She urged all Council members to attend the briefing.

Another bill that was suggested was one dealing with third party custody. Dodie Fait said she would follow up with Senator Jamie Raskin about this bill from last year.

- d. BAG award – No report
- e. Juvenile law – Master Leah Seaton and Erin Gable are researching and writing a newsletter article describing the resources and services available for juveniles in each county.
- f. Ad Hoc Committee on Pro Se – The Committee is planning to develop a best practices manual.
- g. Amicus Brief – Rosemann. Mary Sanders reported that the MSBA Board of Governors would not give the FJLSC permission to file an amicus brief. The BOG would only agree to allow an amicus in a case affecting the practice of law in a general fashion.

7. Old Business

- a. Listserve – Council members agreed that this is an important service performed for the Section. Mary Sanders suggested that each month the Section Council post a “hot tip” in family law. Hadrian Hatfield agreed to write the first tip on ADR.
- b. Survey. Renee Ades, Craig Little, and Alisa Cummins will tabulate the results of the Self Represented Litigants survey.
- c. Personal Identifiers in Court Records. Cindy Callahan reported that Judge

Wilner told her that the topic was on hold while the court sorts out the rules necessary to implement the new death penalty and foreclosure legislation.

8. New Business
 - Top Ten Lists for List serve. See “Listserve” above.
 - Ideas for outreach, mentoring, etc.? – Mary Sanders suggested developing a list of mentors from the Council.
9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting **September 9, 2009**

ATTENDEES

Mary Sanders, Chair
Dorothy Lennig, Vice Chair
Walter Herbert, Secretary
Dorothy Fait, Treasurer
Cindy Callahan, past chair
Barry Dalnekoff, past chair
Judge Kathleen O’Ferrall Friedman, past chair
Chris Nicholson, past chair
Marc Noren, past chair
Bryan Renehan, past chair
Sheila Sachs, past chair
Keith Schiszik, past chair
Stacy LeBow Siegel, past chair
Renee Ades
Ron Bergman
Alisa Cummins
Erin Gable
Sally Gold
Hadrian Hatfield
Kristine Howanski
Craig Little
Justin Sasser
Master Leah Seaton
Chris van Roden
Vince Wills

GUESTS

Delegate Kathleen Dumais
Richard Flax

Judge Ruth Jakubowski
Andrea Kelly
Mary Kramer
Doug Martin
Stephen Sachs
Carolyn Thaler
Elani van Roden
Judge Julie Weatherly