

**MINUTES**  
Family Law Section

**ADOPTION/PATERNITY/DEPENDENCY &  
CHILDREN'S ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Annual Florida Bar Meeting  
-Boca Raton-  
June 18, 2008**

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1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairs Elisha Roy and Amy Hickman at 9:05am on June 18, 2008. Both gave, opening remarks and welcomed members.

Elisha Roy explained that this year has been very active. Elisha gave an update on the passage of the Parenting Bill and the Adoption Glitch Bill. Elisha spoke in detail about the Parenting Bill, which will be effective on October 1, 2008. Elisha explained that the Florida Statutes, Family Law Rules and Forms are going to have to be re-vamped in accordance with the Parenting Bill, which is why the bill is not effective on July 1, 2008. Amy Hickman spoke about the Adoption Glitch Bill, which will be effective on July 1, 2008. It was discussed how long Amy has been working on the Adoption Bill, and the amount of work which Amy did to get this bill passed.

2. **ATTENDANCE SHEET:** *See Attached Exhibit "A."*

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Elisha gave an update on the GAL issues. A discussion of the Tallahassee Guardian Ad Litem ensued. Elisha explained that legislation was presented to the legislature this past session; however, it did not pass. There are great concerns regarding the training for the GALs. Elisha stated that this Committee needs to continue working on what training will be necessary for the GALs. Patty Alexander is the chair of the GAL/AAL Training sub-committee. Our committee should always be linked with the Legislative Committee to make sure that we are in the loop on the new legislation which may be presented in this upcoming session of 2008/2009.

Kim Nutter gave her report on her subcommittee which is working on the GAL legislation specifically regarding the "definitions of a GAL." Kim's subcommittee needs to expand with more input from members from across the State. It was discussed that there should be a merger of Patty Alexander's GAL Training Subcommittee and Kim Nutter's sub-committee into one ad hoc committee. The idea of an Ad Hoc committee will be addressed at the Executive Council Meeting. Elisha advised that Kristin Griswold is the contact at the GAL's office.

Heather Apicella gave her report on her subcommittee which is Aging Out of DCF. Heather explained that her subcommittee is strictly a brainstorming subcommittee. Heather has been in contact with Judge Baumann. Judge Baumann is the chair of the subcommittee Aging Out of DCF, which is apart of The Supreme Court Steering Committee. Judge Baumann's committee

has completed their Final Draft of their Report and Recommendations and it is due to be released to the public on June 30, 2008. Heather shared that Judge Baumann did not want to release this report prior to the Supreme Court reviewing the same first (as he believes they should see it before anyone else). According to Judge Baumann there are several recommendations which will require his Subcommittee to take on extra assignments. Judge Baumann expressed the idea of working jointly with the Section, he expressed that having the support of the Bar to back these issues will be greatly appreciated.

Amy Hickman gave an update as to the case of GS v. TB, 33 Fla. L. Weekly S325 (Fla. 2008), which is the case addressing a grandparents statutory right to adoption. This case said that the adoption was not permitted because the court wanted to preserve the grandparent's rights. Amy suggested that the Committee take a look at this case, if for nothing else, knowledge of what it says; and for the determination as to whether or not we should have a subcommittee address this issue.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Diane Kirigin advised that Scott Rubin, incoming Chair, requested that she raise the following issue: Whether this Committee should consider reviewing the UCCJEA statute as it relates to unborn children. Discussion took place and Andrea Reid was appointed as Chair of the UCCJEA subcommittee.

Amy Hickman explained that she is beginning to work on the potential for Adoption Certification. Amy explained that this will likely be taking up a lot of her time, and she will keep us informed as to the progress of same. Discussion ensued about the Certification and what the requirements will be, and the process Amy will have to go through with the Supreme Court to make this certification a possibility.

5. **ADJOURN.**