

**FAMILY LAW SECTION
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 10, 2008
Florida Bar General Meeting
Tampa Airport Marriot**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Amy Cosentino, Jodi Seitlin, Carrie Arvine, Sarah Sullivan, Karen Myatt, Maria Gonzalez, Robin Scher, Deborah O. Day, Matt Capstraw, and Cindy Harari.

- I. Welcome:
 - a. Introduction of members. The Co-Chair, Amy Cosentino, began the meeting at approximately 9:15 A.M. The agenda and attachments were distributed to all attendees.

- II. Old Business:
 - a. Discussion of the changes to the Equitable Distribution statute--specifically the abolishment of special equity.
 - i. Karen Myatt began discussion and explained how while special equity may be gone, we still have unequal distribution. Discussion of how unequal distribution in Florida is very rare. Discussion of *Erp* case.
 - b. Discussion of the Parenting/Timesharing statute and the problems which may arise, for example, with respect to the parents who can't co-parent.
 - i. Volunteers to write an article for the Florida Bar Journal or Commentator on child custody and DV cases.
 - c. Amy Cosentino and Judge Victoria Del Pino will be speaking in Fort Lauderdale on September 18, 2008 on "how did my case end up in DV court?"
 - d. Scott Rubin and Jesse Diner joined us briefly to discuss how they would like us to present at the next EC meeting how the presence of domestic violence impacts the parenting coordinator process.
 - i. Group will look into the DV language as it has been written and try to clear up the confusing parts.
 - e. Brief discussion of the change to the DV pamphlet presented to DV victims.
 - f. Maria Gonzalez raised several issues:
 - i. Proposed amendment to DV statues, specifically how temporary child support would be a 'shall,' not a 'may;' however, alimony would remain a 'may.' Will be presenting report to support issues committee and wants input from DV committee
 - ii. Problems which arise (such as 'venue shopping') in a DV case with the same parties in two different counties.

- III. New Business:
 - a. Statewide and DV Strategic plan
 - i. Reviewed letter from Judge Amy Karan to Chief Justice Lewis regarding request of additional provisions to the forms for Temp and Final Judgment Injunctions against DV.
 - b. Discussed the 2008 Florida Legislative Coalition wrap-up – the bills that passed and the bills which did not.
 - i. Brief discussion on how bill on “Human Trafficking” did not pass and how group was surprised.
 - c. Approved DV website overview portion—submit to Summer Hall to post, as well as minutes and member list.
 - d. Upcoming important dates:
 - i. Fall cruise retreat and meeting Jan 22-24 at the Grand Floridian
 - e. Discussion of community outreach and the importance of helping get others involved with the group
 - f. Domestic Violence Committee is now a substantive committee
 - g. Discussed the Marco Island Retreat
 - i. The power of Legislative Committee and EC.
 - ii. Discussed the importance of leadership and advocacy.
 - h. Reviewed and discussed articles related to DV
 - i. Reviewed and discussed *Giles v. California*
- IV. Call for Additional business:
 - a. Jodi Seitlin raised issue and began discussion of draft of DV bill-amendment to chapter 741 of family code
 - i. Amends section 741.30(6)(a)(b)
- V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE