

Minutes  
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and  
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters  
March 26, 2019

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in Courtroom 400 of the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on March 26, 2019.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Judge Edward Graziani; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); and Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly

Absent: Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health; and Mr. Samuel S. Gray, Jr., President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford

Also in attendance were Attorney Michael Bowler, Statewide Bar Counsel; Attorney Nancy Porter, Judicial Branch Legal Services; Attorney Damon Goldstein and Mr. Samuel Bruder from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Justine Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Susan Hamilton to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 26, 2019. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

II. Changes to the Active List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

a. Attorney Elizabeth Rohback

Attorney Rohback was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Rohback emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on March 5, 2019. Attorney Rohback meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Susan Hamilton moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney Rohback be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 5-0 vote with three Committee members absent.

b. Attorney William Mastrogiovanni

Attorney Mastrogiovanni was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on November 15, 2017. Attorney Mastrogiovanni emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on March 18, 2019. Attorney Mastrogiovanni meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Mastrogiovanni be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved his reinstatement by a 5-0 vote with three Committee members absent.

III. Process and Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as GAL/AMC

The Committee discussed the Draft Removal Process by Complaint with agreement on the overall process. A revised draft of the removal process will incorporate the changes the Committee agreed upon. The revised draft will be circulated in advance of the next meeting in preparation for additional discussion at the next scheduled meeting. A draft complaint form will also be prepared for the Committee to review.

IV. Correspondence Sent to the Standing Committee

The Committee was notified that correspondence it received from a party to a family matter prior to its January 8, 2019 meeting about how to remove a GAL from the active list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC, has since been withdrawn.

V. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be May 7, 2019 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, with the room to be determined.

Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM