

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys
for the Minor Child in Family Matters
July 25, 2017

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in the Attorney Conference Room at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, on July 25, 2017.

Those in attendance: Attorney Michael Cronin

Those participating by conference call: Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto (Chair); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Ms. Wendy Furniss, Branch Chief, Department of Public Health; Mr. Samuel S. Gray, Jr., President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford; Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly

Absent: Judge Edward Graziani

Also in attendance were Attorney Melissa Farley from the Judicial Branch's External Affairs Division and Attorney Damon Goldstein from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Judge Bozzuto.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

There was a request from Liza Andrews to amend the draft minutes from the June 15, 2017 meeting to change her job title from "Director" to "Policy Director". A motion was then made by Danielle Rado and seconded by Samuel Gray, Jr. to approve the minutes with the requested amendment. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as amended.

II. Requests from previously trained/qualified GALs

Since January 1, 2017, when Practice Book Rule 21-61A went into effect, five attorneys have requested to be placed back on the active list of persons eligible to serve as a GAL/AMC. These attorneys had previously completed the training required by Practice Book Rules 25-62 and 25-62A prior to January 1, 2017. The five attorneys were removed from the active list because they did not respond to an email sent to them on June 30, 2015. The email requested updated information and stated that if no response was received by August 15, 2015 that the individual would be removed from the active list. At its June 15, 2017 meeting, the Committee asked each attorney requesting reinstatement to submit a letter stating why they did

not respond to the email that was sent on June 30, 2015 and that they meet the criteria contained in Practice Book Rule 25-62(b)(1-6).

A. Attorney Deborah Noonan

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Judge Bozzuto moved, and Wendy Furniss seconded, that Attorney Noonan be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one Committee member absent.

B. Attorney Karen Fisher

Judge Bozzuto made a motion, which was seconded by Danielle Rado, that Attorney Fisher be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one Committee member absent.

C. Attorney Freda Roberts

Attorney Roberts did not provide her responses to the Committee until July 9, 2017. After a discussion of what Attorney Roberts submitted, Judge Bozzuto made a motion, which was seconded by Wendy Furniss, that Attorney Roberts be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one Committee member absent.

D. Attorney Jodie Comer Oshana

Justine Rakich-Kelly recused herself from considering Attorney Oshana's reinstatement prior to the Committee beginning discussion. After a brief discussion by the other participating Committee members, Judge Bozzuto moved, and Wendy Furniss seconded, that Attorney Oshana be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 7-0 vote with one Committee member abstaining and one Committee member absent.

E. Attorney Jill Levin

Attorney Levin contacted Damon Goldstein by email on July 3, 2017 requesting reinstatement to the active list. She was informed by Attorney Goldstein to submit her response in the same manner as the other four attorneys as soon as possible so the Committee could consider her request at today's meeting. After a brief discussion of what Attorney Levin submitted, Judge Bozzuto made a motion, which was seconded by

Michael Cronin, that Attorney Levin be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one Committee member absent.

III. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be held on Wednesday October 4, 2017 at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at a location to be determined.

Judge Bozzuto adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.