

Columbus Bar Association Family Law Committee Meeting March 10, 2008

Minutes

Chairman Chip Snedaker called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. by welcoming participants. Mr. Snedaker then opened the meeting by reporting to the committee participants that he has changed the name of the name of the A.D.R. subcommittee to the Collaborative Law subcommittee. Attorney Bobbie O'Keefe will remain the chair of the newly named subcommittee. The committee participants were informed that Attorney Bradley Frick plans to have meetings with the Franklin county domestic court judges on a quarterly basis and that the next meeting with the domestic court judges will occur in the late spring or early summer with a report to follow that meeting. Mr. Snedaker then reported that Attorney Staska Keefer, the Guardian ad Litem subcommittee chair, is still working on the creation of a more detailed guardian ad litem biographical database for use by judges and practitioners when considering appointments for domestic and juvenile cases.

Mr. Snedaker opened the floor to any new business. The committee participants briefly discussed when the new guideline child support calculation would be effective and the basic changes to the new calculation.

Mr. Snedaker then introduced the meeting's guest speakers Attorney Bobbie Corley O'Keefe and Ellen Kay Douglas, Ph.D. on the topic of Collaborative Divorce. Attorney O'Keefe gave an excellent review of the collaborative divorce concept, as well as a review of the collaborative divorce process. Attorney O'Keefe led committee participants in a discussion of the positive aspects of the collaborative divorce process on the parties, including the children involved in divorce, in comparison with the negatives of a traditional litigated divorce proceeding. Dr. Douglas discussed her and other specialists' role and involvement in a collaborative divorce. The speakers also discussed with committee participants the cost and time comparison of collaboration versus litigation; proposed uniform law; attorney representation issues; role of judges and arbiters; difficulties with parties diagnosed with severe personality disorders; and collaborative divorce after filing of initial divorce pleadings.

Mr. Snedaker adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.