

Columbus Bar Association Family Law Committee Meeting January 9, 2006

Minutes

Chairman Doug Dougherty called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. by welcoming participants.

Mr. Dougherty then opened the meeting with a brief floor discussion regarding recent concerns relating to contempt charges brought against attorneys practicing in Franklin County Domestic Court and requests by attorneys for the recording of proceedings.

Mr. Dougherty then opened the floor for subcommittee reports. Attorney Diane DePascale was recognized to give a Legislative subcommittee update. She reported on the covenant marriage legislation (House Bill 268 and Senate Bill 140) that is currently pending in the Ohio General Assembly. The committee participants held a brief discussion about the legislation and its potential impact.

Mr. Dougherty gave the Pro Bono subcommittee report by discussing several efforts to promote pro bono activities and his participation in the CBA's Pro Bono Task Force. Mr. Dougherty emphasized that the CBA is working hard to create a working pro bono program. Committee participants then conducted a floor discussion regarding a variety of pro bono topics and issues.

Attorney Jody ___ was then recognized to give the Judicial subcommittee report. She discussed the Franklin County Domestic Court budget concerns as it relates to venue issues. Committee participants discussed their understanding of the venue rules in Franklin County.

Mr. Dougherty then opened the floor to old matters. The committee members discussed the issue of assisting the Court Library staff with forms for pro se individuals seeking the library staff's assistance in dealing with the court. They also discussed topics for the spring Family Law seminar.

Mr. Dougherty opened the floor to new matters. No new matters were raised.

Mr. Dougherty then introduced the meetings guest speaker, Accountant William Ditty. Mr. Ditty, a CPA and Certified Divorce Analyst, gave an excellent presentation entitled "Issues Regarding Allocation of the Federal Tax Dependency Exemption in Cases Involving Child Support." Mr. Ditty walked the committee participants through the basic tax code provisions relating to the dependency exemption with an eye toward maximizing tax savings of both litigants in divorce or dissolution proceedings. He provided committee members with a handout that illustrated the several potential tax savings scenarios.

Mr. Dougherty then adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.