

Minutes  
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and  
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters  
January 21, 2021

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met remotely via Microsoft Teams on January 21, 2021. The meeting was convened by the chair in Courtroom 407 at 1 Court Street, Middletown, Connecticut and live streamed to the public on YouTube.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Attorney Mark Korber; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Attorney Bryan Cafferelli.

Absent: No members were absent

Also in attendance were Attorney Damon Goldstein and Ms. Lauren Orlowski from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:01PM by Judge Albis. Attorney Bryan Cafferelli joined the meeting at 2:10 PM.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Justine Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Mark Korber to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 29, 2020, upon the revision of "second" to "third" in reference to the Probable Cause Panel under Section II (c), line 2, Complaint 3. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with one member absent.

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

a. Brendan Holt

Attorney Brendan Holt was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on or about November 16, 2018. Attorney Holt emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on December 4, 2020. Attorney Holt meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle Rado moved and Mark Korber seconded that Attorney Holt be reinstated retroactive to October 19, 2020. The Committee approved the reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with one member abstaining and one member absent.

b. Caryl Balskus

Attorney Caryl Balskus was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on or about November 15, 2019. Attorney Balskus emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on November 4, 2020. Attorney Balskus meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Susan Hamilton moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Balskus be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved the reinstatement by a 7-0 vote with one member absent.

c. Maria McKeon

Attorney Maria McKeon was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on or about November 16, 2018. Attorney McKeon emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on January 19, 2021. Attorney McKeon meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Mark Korber moved, and Susan Hamilton seconded, that Attorney McKeon be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved the reinstatement by an 8-0 vote.

d. Lynn Alvey Dawson

Attorney Lynn Alvey Dawson was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on or about November 16, 2018. Attorney Dawson emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on January 8, 2021.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Mark Korber seconded, that Attorney Dawson be reinstated to the active list, subject to her submission of proof to Damon Goldstein regarding her compliance with Connecticut Practice Book Rule 25-62. The Committee approved the reinstatement, subject to the condition stated, by an 8-0 vote.

III. 2021 Approval of the List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

Roughly 18 people were removed from the list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC. Danielle Rado moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, to approve the list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC for 2021. The Committee approved the list by an 8-0 vote.

IV. Pre-service Training

Susan Hamilton led the discussion, providing an update from the Subcommittee's meeting held on January 6, 2021, in which the members discussed the curriculum and presenters for an upcoming pre-service training scheduled to be held in summer 2021 for perspective Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters. The Subcommittee will continue to meet and plan the agenda, then submit the final curriculum to the full Committee for approval.

V. Schedule of Future Meetings

Another meeting will be held March 25, 2021 at 2 PM. The Subcommittee will reconvene in February at a date to be determined.

VI. Such Other Matters as may Properly Come Before the Standing Committee

By request of the Chair, Committee members are asked to consider their interest in being reappointed for another two year term to serve on the Committee.

Mark Korber moved, and Danielle Rado seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by an 8-0 vote. Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM.