

Minutes  
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and  
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters  
May 14, 2021

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met remotely via Microsoft Teams on May 14, 2021. The meeting was convened by the chair in Courtroom 407 at 1 Court Street, Middletown, Connecticut. The meeting was recorded using Microsoft Teams due to technical difficulties with live streaming on YouTube.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Judge Jennifer Macierowski, 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

Absent: Attorney Bryan Cafferelli

Also in attendance were Attorney Michael Bowler, Counsel to the Standing Committee, Attorney Jennifer Gagosz, Assistant Bar Counsel, and Attorney Damon Goldstein and Ms. Lauren Orłowski from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Justine Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Danielle Rado to approve the minutes, upon amendment of Attorney Bowler's title, from the meeting held on March 25, 2021. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

II. Possible Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

At 2:06 PM, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(a), Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Mark Korber seconded, to enter executive session to discuss complaints for removal of guardians ad litem. The Committee approved going into executive session by an 8-0 vote, with one member absent. Michael Bowler, Jennifer Gagosz, Damon Goldstein and Lauren Orłowski were asked by the Committee to remain present for the executive session.

The executive session concluded and the Committee reconvened in open session at 2:10 PM.

a.) Complaint 1 (21-0003)

A motion was made by Justine Rakich-Kelly, and seconded by Mark Korber, to accept the Probable Cause Panel's finding of no probable cause and recommendation of dismissing the first complaint in question. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote with one member absent. The complaint was dismissed.

b.) Complaint 2 (21-0004)

A motion was made by Danielle Rado, and seconded by Mark Korber, to accept the Probable Cause Panel's finding of no probable cause and recommendation of dismissing the second complaint in question. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote with one member absent. The complaint was dismissed.

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

a.) Susanne Snearly

Attorney Susanne Snearly was removed from the active list because of a technical error regarding an email sent in December 2019. Attorney Snearly emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on April 7, 2021. Attorney Snearly meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle Rado moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Snearly be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 1, 2021. The Committee approved the reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

b.) Kelly Therrien

Attorney Kelly Therrien was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her in November 2019. Attorney Therrien emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on March 31, 2021. Attorney Therrien 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 Therrien be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved the reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

c.) Mark Henderson

Attorney Mark Henderson was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him in November 2020. Attorney Henderson emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on May 1, 2021. Attorney Henderson meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Mark Korber seconded, that Attorney Henderson be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 1, 2021. The Committee approved the reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

d.) Tom Fiorentino

Attorney Tom Fiorentino was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him in November 2020. Attorney Fiorentino emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on May 13, 2021. Attorney Fiorentino meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Judge Jennifer Macierowski seconded, that Attorney Fiorentino be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 1, 2021. The Committee approved the reinstatement by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

IV. Pre-service Training

Susan Hamilton led the discussion, providing an update regarding the Subcommittee's final proposed curriculum for the pre-service training for prospective Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters scheduled for June. Danielle Rado moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, to approve the pre-service training curriculum. Pursuant to CT Practice Book Section 25-61A, The Committee approved the curriculum by an 8-0 vote with one member absent.

Committee members will circulate the registration information to members of the Connecticut Bar Association, National Association of Social Workers, and to those attorneys who contract with the Division of Public Defender Services to do child protection work.

V. 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 September 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

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

No other matters were brought before the Committee. Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by an 8-0 vote with one member absent. Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.