

Minutes  
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and  
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters  
June 4, 2019

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in Courtroom 103 of the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on June 4, 2019.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Judge Edward Graziani; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; and Attorney Danielle S. Rado;

Absent: Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health; Attorney Mark Korber; and Attorney Bryan Cafferelli

Also in attendance were Attorney Nancy Porter, Judicial Branch Legal Services; Attorney Damon Goldstein and Mr. Samuel Bruder from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Judge Graziani and seconded by Justine Rakich-Kelly to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 7, 2019. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

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

a. Attorney Corrine Boni-Vendola

Attorney Boni-Vendola was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Boni-Vendola emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list as of January 14, 2019. Attorney Boni-Vendola meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Danielle S. Rado seconded, that Attorney Boni-Vendola be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of this date by a 5-0 vote. The Committee directed that the reinstatement may be made retroactive to the date of removal, without further action by the Committee, subject to Attorney Boni-Vendola affirming in writing that she has met all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62 from the date of removal to the present.

b. Attorney Lynn Pellegrino

Attorney Pellegrino was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on June 30, 2015. Attorney Pellegrino emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list. Through the representations of Attorney Margot Burkle, who personally appeared before the Committee today, Attorney Pellegrino also requested that her reinstatement be retroactive to August 18, 2015. Attorney Pellegrino meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Danielle S. Rado seconded, that Attorney Pellegrino be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of this date by a 4-0 vote with 1 abstention by Judge Albis who previously was her law partner. The Committee directed that the reinstatement may be made retroactive to the date of removal, without further action by the Committee, subject to Attorney Pellegrino affirming in writing that she has met all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62 from the date of removal to the present.

c. Attorney Margot Burkle

Attorney Burkle was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Burkle emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 14, 2019. She personally appeared before the Committee and stated that she meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62 and further affirms that she has met these requirements since January 14, 2019.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Danielle S. Rado seconded, that Attorney Burkle be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 14, 2019. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 5-0 vote.

d. Attorney Andrew Schaffer

Attorney Schaffer was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on November 15, 2018. Attorney Schaffer emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list retroactive to January 1, 2019. Attorney Schaffer meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle S. Rado moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Schaffer be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved his reinstatement as of this date by a 5-0 vote. The Committee directed that the reinstatement may be made retroactive January 1, 2019 without further action by the Committee subject to Attorney Schaffer affirming in writing that he has met all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62 from the date of removal to the present.

e. Attorney Anne Epstein

Attorney Epstein was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2017. Attorney Epstein emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list. Attorney Epstein meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle S. Rado moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Epstein be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement as of this date by a 5-0 vote. The Committee directed that the reinstatement may be made retroactive to January 30, 2018, without further action by the Committee, subject to Attorney Epstein affirming in writing that she has met all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62 from January 30, 2018 to the present.

III. Process and Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as GAL/AMC

The Committee discussed the Draft Removal Process by Complaint with agreement on the process. After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Sue Hamilton seconded, that the Draft Removal Process by Complaint, as amended today, be formally adopted. The amendments adopted include barring personal identifying information from the response, notifying the Chief Administrative Judge of Family when a Guardian Ad Litem or Attorney for a Minor Child is removed from the active list and the Full Committee having the discretion to notify the licensing committee of that removed individual. The process is to be implemented and complaints may be filed beginning on September 3, 2019, or as soon thereafter as can be achieved. The Committee approved the adoption by a 5-0 vote.

The Committee discussed the Draft Complaint Form and the Draft Complaint Form Instructions, with agreement on the format and language. After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Sue Hamilton moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that the Draft Complaint Form and the Draft Complaint Form Instructions be forwarded to the Judicial Branch's Legal Division for review. The Committee approved forwarding them both by a 5-0 vote.

IV. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be September 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, with the room to be determined.

Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 3:24 PM