

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
October 23, 2018

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in Courtroom 400 of the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on October 23, 2018.

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

Absent: Mr. Samuel S. Gray, Jr., President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford; and Attorney Michael Cronin

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Attorney Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Attorney Rado to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 6, 2018. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

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

The Committee discussed the Proposed Removal Process by Complaint with agreement on the process, and the remedy. Attorney Bowler and Attorney Porter provided comments during the discussion. A draft of the removal process will be circulated in advance of the next meeting in preparation for additional discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

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

a. Attorney Sophia Campbell

Attorney Campbell was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on June 30, 2015. Attorney Campbell emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on September 12, 2018. Attorney Campbell 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 Campbell be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 7-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

b. Thelma Wendy Epps

Ms. Epps was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on June 30, 2015. Ms. Epps emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on October 19, 2018. Ms. Epps does not meet all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Danielle Rado moved, and Susan Hamilton seconded, that Ms. Epps not be reinstated to the active list until the requirements under Practice Book Section 25-62 have been met. The Committee denied her reinstatement by a 7-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

c. Attorney Tamarah Evanko

The Committee was notified that Attorney Evanko does not currently meet all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney Evanko be removed from the active list until the Committee is notified all the requirements under Practice Book Section 25-62 have been met. The Committee removed her from the active list by a 7-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

IV. Annual Review and Approval of List of Individuals Deemed Eligible for Appointment

The Committee discussed contacting individuals on or about November 15, with a response deadline by late December, regarding the annual certification of their compliance with Practice Book Section 26-62, similar to last year. Sue Hamilton suggested language to clarify that the response by email, and no other method, is required by the individual in order to be reviewed by the Committee.

V. 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 December 6, 2018 at 2:00 PM. If there is no business ready for the Committee to discuss on December 6, the next meeting will be held on January 8, 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 3:38 PM