

Minutes of the Meeting
Rules Committee of the Superior Court
Monday, February 10, 2025

On February 10, 2025, the Rules Committee met using Microsoft Teams from 2:00 p.m. to 3:06 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

HON. JOAN K. ALEXANDER, CHAIR
HON. BARBARA AARON
HON. BARRY F. ARMATA
HON. COURTNEY M. CHAPLIN
HON. ERNEST GREEN
HON. STEPHANIE A. MCLAUGHLIN
HON. W. GLEN PIERSON
HON. ELIZABETH J. STEWART

Also in attendance were Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Counsel to the Rules Committee, and James T. O'Connor, Assistant Counsel to the Rules Committee. Judge Jennifer Macierowski was absent.

1. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2025, with no revisions. Judge Chaplin abstained from voting.

2. The Committee considered a proposal from Christina Torres to amend Practice Book Sec. 25-62 (b)(1) to include Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA), Licensed Behavioral Analysts (LBA), Qualified Applied Behavior Analysts (QABA), and International Behavior Analysts (IBA) as eligible to become guardians ad litem (GAL) in family matters cases (RC ID # [2024-008](#)).

After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to submit to public hearing the proposal revised by Counsel, to amend Practice Book Section 25-62, as set forth in Appendix A, attached to these minutes.

3. The Committee considered a proposal referred to the Committee by Justice McDonald regarding the propriety of a party having ex parte communications with a disclosed expert witness of an opposing party, and whether any changes to the rules in this subject area are necessary or appropriate (RC ID # [2024-009](#)).

Attorney Karolina Dowd from the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal and will put together a working group to draft a proposal to be submitted to the Rules Committee.

4. The Committee considered a proposal to amend the discovery rules in summary process matters (RC ID # [2024-013](#)).

Attorney Giovanna Shay from Greater Hartford Legal Aid was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal until the fall and referred it for comment to the Judicial Branch Access to Justice Commission, Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto, Chief Court Administrator, Judge Anna Ficeto, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, and Judge Barbara Bellis, Chief Administrative Judge for Civil Matters.

5. The Committee considered a proposal from Justice Andrew McDonald for a new rule to address the misgendering in Connecticut courts of individuals who are nonbinary or transgender (RC ID # [2024-016](#)).

The Committee also considered a proposal from Attorney Lisa J. Steele for adoption of rules concerning the use of names and pronouns for attorneys, parties, and witnesses (RC ID # [2024-020](#)).

Attorney Jenna Cutler from the LGBT Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), and Attorney Lisa Steele were present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this matter to its March meeting and referred the proposal submitted by the subcommittee of the Rules Committee to the LGBT Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), and Troy Brown, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Judicial Branch for comment.

6. The Committee considered a proposal from Carl Cicchetti, Chief Clerk for the Supreme and Appellate Courts, to amend Practice Book Sections 3-16 and 3-21 concerning Certified Legal Interns (RC ID # 2024-017).

Attorney Christopher Slack, Statewide Bar Counsel, Attorney Brian Staines, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Attorney Cicchetti were present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this matter to its March meeting and referred a revised proposal offered by Judge Stewart to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, the Statewide Bar Counsel's Office, and the Deans for UCONN Law School, Yale Law School, Quinnipiac School of Law, and Western New England Law School for comment.

7. The Committee considered a proposal from Attorney James Sullivan to amend Practice Book Section 2-36 to require that disciplinary authorities specifically identify in a presentment complaint the specific Rules of Professional Conduct that are alleged to have been violated (RC ID # 2024-018).

Attorney Sullivan was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee voted to take no further action on this matter.

8. The Committee considered a proposal from Attorney Karolina Dowd to amend Practice Book Sections 13-6, 13-8, 13-9, 13-10, and various discovery forms, to tailor them more closely to appropriately discoverable information (RC ID # [2024-019](#)).

Attorney Dowd was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal until Attorney Dowd submits a revised proposal after having been discussed with Judge Bellis, Chief Administrative Judge for Civil Matters.

9. The Committee considered a proposal from Chief Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, Barbara Bellis, to repeal Practice Book Section 16-12, and to add a new rule, Section 15-9, that provides a procedure where the trier of fact, whether judge or jury, may conduct a view of a place or thing involved in a case (RC ID # [2025-002](#)).

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal to its March meeting and referred it for comment to the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA).

10. The Committee considered a proposal from Attorney David Atkins to amend Rule 8.4(7) of the Rules of Professional Conduct (RC ID # [2025-003](#)).

Attorney Atkins was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal to give its members an opportunity to review the proposal and materials related to the revisions to Rule 8.4 adopted in 2021.

11. The Committee considered a proposal from Attorney Christopher DeMatteo to amend Practice Book Section 41-9 to repeal the limitation on motions to dismiss, allowing

them to be filed on sufficiency of the evidence grounds in warrant cases (RC ID # 2025-004).

Attorney DeMatteo was present and addressed the Committee on this matter.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this proposal and referred it for comment to Judge David Gold, Chief Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, and to others as determined by the Chair in consultation with Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph J. Del Ciampo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Joseph J. Del Ciampo
Counsel to the Rules Committee

APPENDIX A

(021025)

Sec. 25-62. Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem

(a) The judicial authority may appoint a guardian ad litem for a minor involved in any family matter. Unless the judicial authority orders that another person be appointed guardian ad litem, a family relations counselor shall be designated as guardian ad litem. The guardian ad litem is not required to be an attorney.

(b) With the exception of family relations counselors, no person may be appointed as guardian ad litem unless he or she:

(1) Is an attorney in good standing, licensed to practice law in the State of Connecticut by the Judicial Branch, or

(2) is a mental health professional, licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and in good standing, in the areas of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, psychology or psychiatry; or

(3) is a mental health professional, licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and in good standing, in an area other than clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, psychology or psychiatry, who has been approved as eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters. Such approval may be requested by submitting an application containing the following information to the standing committee for its consideration:

(A) The area of mental health in which the applicant is licensed and in good standing.

(B) A statement as to whether the applicant's practice incorporates the topics of family dynamics, childhood development and adjustment, communicating with children, trauma, addiction, and domestic violence including a detailed description of the way in which these topics are incorporated,

(C) A statement that the applicant is otherwise in compliance with the remainder of this section in its entirety.

(D) Any other information the applicant believes will assist the standing committee in making a fully informed decision regarding the request.

The standing committee may contact the applicant to obtain clarification or further discuss the application.

The standing committee shall review the application and provide a written decision to the applicant. The standing committee's decision will be based upon a majority vote and shall be final. The applicant may not request reconsideration or further review once the standing committee has issued its decision.

[(2)] (4) Provides proof that he or she does not have a criminal record;

[(3)] (5) Provides proof that he or she does not appear on the Department of Children and Families' central registry of child abuse and neglect;

[[4]] (6) Completes a minimum of twenty hours of preservice training as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters;

[[5]] (7) Meets any additional qualifications established by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters; and

[[6]] (8) Applies, provides proof of the foregoing items and is approved as eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(c) The status of all individuals deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem in family matters shall be reviewed by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters every three years. To maintain eligibility, individuals must:

(1) Certify that they have completed twelve hours of relevant training within the past three years, three hours of which must be in ethics;

(2) Disclose any changes to their criminal history;

(3) Certify that they do not appear on the Department of Children and Families' central registry of child abuse and neglect; and

(4) Meet additional qualifications as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(d) The judicial authority may order compensation for services rendered by a court-appointed guardian ad litem.

COMMENTARY: The changes to this rule allow a mental health professional, licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and in good standing, in an area other than clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, psychology or psychiatry, to be appointed by the court as a guardian ad litem in family matters, if approved as eligible by the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters.