

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
February 26, 2019

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 February 26, 2019.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Judge Albis.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Liza Andrews and seconded by Justine Rakich-Kelly to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 8, 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 Victoria Lanier

Attorney Lanier was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Lanier emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on January 22, 2019. Attorney Lanier meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Justine Rakich-Kelly moved, and Sue Hamilton seconded, that Attorney Lanier be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

b. Attorney Tasheedah Roberts

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

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Roberts be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

c. Attorney Kim Duell

Attorney Duell was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Duell emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on January 30, 2019. Attorney Duell meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Sue Hamilton moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney Duell be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 5-0 vote with Justine Rakich-Kelly abstaining and two Committee members absent.

d. Attorney Annmarie Briones

Attorney Briones was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Briones emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on February 6, 2019. Attorney Briones meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Briones be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

e. Attorney Caryl Balskus

Attorney Balskus was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Balskus emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on February 11, 2019. Attorney Balskus meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Balskus be reinstated to the active list. The

Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

f. Attorney Mark Henderson

Attorney Henderson was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on November 15, 2018. Attorney Henderson emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on February 21, 2019. Attorney Henderson meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Henderson be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

g. Attorney Denise Rioux

Attorney Rioux was removed from the active list because she did not respond to an email sent to her on November 15, 2018. Attorney Rioux emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on February 22, 2019. Attorney Rioux meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Liza Andrews moved, and Justine Rakich-Kelly seconded, that Attorney Rioux be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved her reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with two Committee members absent.

h. Attorney Tamarah Evanko

At the Committee's October 23, 2018 meeting, the participating Committee members approved a motion that Attorney Evanko be removed from the active list until the Committee was notified that she met all the requirements under Practice Book Section 25-62.

Attorney Goldstein reported that Attorney Evanko has now met all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62. Having satisfied the Committee's requirements of October 23, 2018, it was directed that Attorney Evanko be reinstated to the active list.

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 overall process. A revised draft of the removal process will incorporate the changes the committee agreed upon. The revised draft will be circulated in advance of the next meeting in preparation for additional discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

IV. Correspondence Sent to the Standing Committee

The Committee again discussed correspondence it received from a party to a family matter prior to its January 8, 2019 meeting about how to remove a GAL from the active list of persons qualified to serve as a GAL/AMC. The Committee asked that the individual be notified that the committee hopes to finalize its formal procedures in the near future, and that when it does we will apprise him of the procedure.

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 March 26, 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 4:31 PM