

## Louisiana State Bar Association Children's Law Committee

For virtual join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88158572801?pwd=R1BjODFzYW15bS84K1MwNFd3Z0IxQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 5857 2801

Passcode: 535675

### Attendees:

- Curtis Nelson, Louisiana Supreme Court – *Co-Chair*
- Ariel Test, Agenda for Children
- Barbara Ferguson, Attorney at Law
- Courtney Schroeder, Attorney at Law
- Leigh Ann Sakla Rood, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court
- Hector Linares, Loyola University College of Law – New Orleans
- Fatmeh Ali, Pro Bono Project
- Guy Lain, La. Department of Children and Family Services
- Caitlin Glass, The Pelican Center
- Rachel Nastasi, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation
- Mark Harris, The Pelican Center
- Martha Maher, Attorney at Law
- Danika Benjamin, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation
- Jennipher Williams, Mental Health Advocacy Service
- Michael Brown, Department of Children and Family Services
- Alexandra Kamp, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Kathleen Richey, CASA
- Michelle Perkins, Caddo Parish Juvenile Court
- Mary Ann McGrath Swaim – Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Pamela Crawford, Attorney at Law
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### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions:

- a. 02/16/2022 – Minutes Approval

#### 2. Working Groups:

- a. Education Working Group – *Provide Brief Update*

The workgroup led in drafting a new bar journal article for the upcoming Children's Law Edition. The article was a collaboration between Curtis Nelson, Barbara Ferguson, and Dr. Myrialis King who is the CEO of 3 charter schools in Orleans Parish. Her schools have been a great example of incorporating trauma informed disciplinary policies and have shown the positive effects of these policies including, the decrease of in-school and out of school suspensions at her schools.

b. **Trauma Informed Care Working Group – *Provide Brief Update***

The workgroup helped lead a series of articles touching on the different aspects of trauma-informed lawyering, legal services, and resources available for attorneys' representing children in legal proceedings. The articles were produced by Kellie Johnson, Josephine Vanderhorst, Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, and Mark Harris along with other community members working with the Court Improvement Program/Pelican Center.

Interested in joining or leading a workgroup next Bar Year? If so, please fill out the following google form: <https://forms.gle/RhPpYnAC5EtV7Edo7>

3. **Legislative Updates: *Open Discussion***

a. **Legislative Tracking List (attached in materials)**

Kathleen Richey provided a spreadsheet to help track many of the bills being presented this legislative session relating to children or the practice of children's law. Members discussed some of the bills that are being heard at this year's legislative session:

- Early Childhood Educational Services
- The Requirement for Cameras in the Classroom for students who are non-verbal.
- Child Welfare Registry – Updating the process surrounding the identification of persons accused of child abuse. A task force is in the works of being created in the legislature to review any other similar bills, but there's a bit of a pushback on the issue.
- Proposed changes involving the Children's Code.
- The addition of penalties involving violent acts or other misconduct in juvenile facilities due to safety concerns.
- HB 746: If passed, the new law would impose strict limits on the use of solitary confinement in OJJ secure care facilities. It would also require OJJ to report on the use of solitary confinement and quickly inform parents if it is used.
- SB 418: If passed, it would mandate that certain 17-year-olds are placed in adult jails pre-trial. The law would be a step towards repealing the Raise the Age bill that passed several years ago, making Louisiana the only state to revert on the promise to treat children like children.
- HB 360: The bill grew out of the work of the recent CINC Bench Book and involves updating and providing clearer definitions for "reasonable efforts",

“safety”, etc. that goes in hand to making better judicial decisions regarding the removal of children in need of care and services.

#### 4. **Children’s Law Bar Journal - Update**

The Children’s Law Special Edition will be published in August/September and will include 14 articles touching on trauma-informed practices, education law, the virtual courtroom, families in need of services, etc. The Journal Planning group will meet next month to discuss editing and feedback from the LSBA’s publications team.

#### 5. **Pelican Center Report:**

The Pelican Center provided information about upcoming events (many of them already listed under “Events & Highlights”):

- CIP Café July 21<sup>st</sup> – Families First Prevention Act
- CIP Café August 18<sup>th</sup> – Race Equity in Child Welfare
- CIP Café September 15<sup>th</sup> – Promotion Practice in Child Welfare Cases
- Together We Can Conference – November 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>
- Trials Skills Training Series with CIP & ABA (6 hours’ worth of CLE credit)
  - October 7<sup>th</sup> – Baton Rouge, La.
  - December 9<sup>th</sup> – Lafayette, La.
- TBRI in the Courtroom – TBD
- Introduction to the CINC Practice & Best Practices – TBD

#### 6. **Engaging Law Students**

Just a reminder that Committee members are always welcome to lead our committee’s law skills trainings for law students. If anyone is interested in leading one this year, please reach out to Marie Contreras or Kellie Johnson.

#### 7. **Events & Highlights**

##### a. **CIP Café: The ABCs of FTMs, FPTs, FPTMs, & More!**

- i. May 19, 2022, at Noon
- ii. Link: [Team Dynamics LLC - Court Improvement Program Cafe' - May 2022 \(teamdynamicsweb.com\)](https://www.teamdynamicsweb.com/2022/05/19/cip-cafe-the-abc-of-ftms-fpts-fptms-more/)

##### b. **CIP Café: Guardianship 101**

- i. June 16, 2022, at Noon
- ii. Link: [Team Dynamics LLC - Court Improvement Program Cafe' - June 2022 \(teamdynamicsweb.com\)](https://www.teamdynamicsweb.com/2022/06/16/cip-cafe-guardianship-101/)

##### c. **Child in Need of Care Trial Skills Building Training**

- i. October 7, 2022, in Baton Rouge, La
- ii. Link: [Team Dynamics LLC - Child in Need of Care Trial Skills Building Training \(teamdynamicsweb.com\)](https://www.teamdynamicsweb.com/2022/10/07/cinoc-trial-skills-building-training/)

8. **Children's Law Awards**

- a. This year's recipients:
  - i. Mary-Ann McGrath Swaim, Southeast La. Legal Services - Houma, La
  - ii. Advanced Advocacy Project – Baton Rouge, La
- b. Award Ceremony Date: Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- c. Ceremony Location: The Supreme Court of Louisiana

9. **Adjournment** – This is the last Committee meeting of the year, please be on the lookout for our 2022-2023 Bar Year meeting dates. Have a lovely Summer!