

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
CHILDREN'S LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Stone Pigman Law Firm, New Orleans, LA**

In attendance:

Karen Hallstrom, Chair
Hon. Ernestine Grey
Jennifer Womble
Jacqueline Gilds
Ariel Test
Kathleen Richie
Rebecca May-Ricks
Mark Harris
Thailund Porter-Green
Jessie George
Margot Hammond
Cherrilynne Thomas
Martha Maher

Guest: Diana Mercer, Loyola College of Law

LSBA: Monte Mollere, Michael Schachtman

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Approval of October 5, 2016 Minutes

3. "Becoming an Adult" Brochure and Website

LSBA Communications Coordinator Barb Baldwin provided a tour of the new website, explaining how it would be situated within the existing LSBA website, and made more user-friendly and appealing to young people. We expect that the majority of users will access this via mobile phones, and the site is also "mobile-friendly." The materials will be available in a hard-copy brochure format to distribute via courts, service providers' facilities, and National Youth Transition Database events, and also via the LSBA website. We may provide an alternative URL so that instead of visit lsba.org/childrenslaw it can be accessed via something like "BecomingandAdultinLA.org." Committee members are asked to submit any additional (and hopefully minor) revisions to the text by Feb 3, Members are also invited to voice support for one of the following three options as the new title:

1. Becoming an Adult: Legal rights in Louisiana
2. Becoming an Adult: Your Legal Rights
3. Becoming an Adult: What you Should Know

4. LSBA Committee Designation

The Children's Law Committee is not considered a "standing" committee within the LSBA, meaning the committee exists at the discretion of the current President. There is no reason to suggest the committee's existence is in jeopardy, but the committee approved drafting a resolution to submit to the LSBA Board of Governors, proposing a conversion of the committee to "standing" status. This resolution will be submitted in advance of the LSBA Annual Meeting in June. Jaqueline Gilds, Karen Hallstrom, and Michael will work on the text.

5. Bar Journal Article

The committee had previously discussed a Children's Law themed Bar Journal. Each journal theme is chosen by the LSBA Editorial Board and there are only 5-6 per year, so it may be more appropriate to submit a series of articles rather than an entire edition. The Board will provide feedback on an outline though (prior to writing the articles), and all committee members are asked to submit their ideas for articles to Michael.Schachtman@lsba.org. Possible topics include: committee work (videos, brochure) Raise the Age/juvenile delinquency, quality parenting initiative, CINC structuring/funding, and other children's rights issues.

6. Law School Outreach

Diana Mercer, Director of the Career Development Office at Loyola Law School, attended the meeting as a guest, and spoke about ways in which the Committee could assist law students and promote careers in children's law. This includes substantive law 2-3 hour "skills" courses, presentations at the school during the lunch hour (Tuesdays/Thursdays), or as part of the "Lunch with Lawyers" speaker series. The Committee has reserved a room at the Bar Center to host a lunch on March 3 (Friday after Mardi Gras) for 1-2 hours. There was discussion as to how to facilitate a discussion that included a variety of practitioners but a focused theme. A course on CINC may be most appropriate, with invitations extended to a DA, LSC attorney, public defender, private/solo practitioner, MHAS, a judge, and others.

7. Pelican Center Update

Mark Harris and Thailand Porter-Green provided an update on upcoming Pelican Center trainings.

Child Welfare Basics - 6.5 CLE hours, including ethics and professionalism

Baton Rouge at Southern 2/15 (confirmed)

Hammond at Southeastern 5/17 (confirmed)

Alexandria 9/15 (tentative)

Ruston 11/30 (tentative)

Cultural Consciousness Training

Baton Rouge 4/19

Grambling 7/12

New Orleans 10/18

Safety Decision Making Training

"Live" sessions

Shreveport 3/3

Monroe 5/31
Baton Rouge 7/6
New Orleans 10/27

Webinars (noon-1pm)
2/15, 4/6, 7/19, 10/16

8. Legislative Report

Karen distributed a resource she authored titled “Recent Developments in Juvenile Law,” that provides a brief overview of 2016 state legislation impacting children and juvenile jurisdiction including- Child in Need of Care, parental rights, adoption, delinquency, custody/visitation, child support, crimes when juveniles are victims, FINS, education, and more. (See attached document or email Karen.) Committee members are requested to keep this document private until it is disseminated at the 2017 City and Juvenile Judges Seminar on January 19.

9. Other

The committee discussed hosting a CLE on adoptions. Jennifer Womble offered to speak and coordinate materials. Other committee members interested should contact her or Michael.Schachtman@lsba.org.

The Special ED 101 event at Southern held in September went extremely well. Approximately 40 lawyers attended, in addition to many parents, teachers, and law students. The committee unanimously agreed to conduct this event annually at the beginning of the school year.

CLARO currently has a calendar listing attorney trainings. Committee members are encouraged to submit relevant events for inclusion.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 17.