

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
CHILDREN'S LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Louisiana Bar Center, New Orleans, LA**

In attendance:

Jo Ann Nixon	Angela Smith
Rodney Hastings	Jennifer Womble
Judge Sandra Jenkins	Ariel Test
Martha Maher	Margot Hammond
Barry LeCouer	Judge Ernestine Grey
Judge Sandra Jenkins	Hope Hughes
Lakeisha Johnson	Rebecca May-Ricks
Jack Harrison	Ayanna Butler
Jacqueline Childs	Franchesca Hamilton-Acker
Cherrilynne Thomas	Danika Benjamin

Michael Schachtman, LSBA ATJ
Linda Johnson, LSBA ATJ
Barb Baldwin, LSBA Communications Department

1. National Association for Counsel of Children Certification

Several committee members have received this impressive certification, and there was discussion regarding limits on advertising. The certification from NACC is recognized by the ABA, invoking LA Rule of Professional Conduct 7.2(C)(5)(B).

Communication of Fields of Practice.

A lawyer may communicate the fact that the lawyer does or does not practice in particular fields of law. A lawyer may state that the lawyer is a "specialist," practices a "specialty," or "specializes in" particular fields, but such communications are subject to the "false and misleading" standard applied in Rule 7.2(c)(1) to communications concerning a lawyer's services. A lawyer shall not state or imply that the lawyer is "certified," or "board certified" except as follows:

(B) Lawyers Certified by Organizations Other Than the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization or Another State Bar.

A lawyer certified by an organization other than the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization or another state bar may inform the public and other lawyers of the lawyer's certified area(s) of legal practice by stating that the lawyer is "certified," or "board certified in (area of certification)" if:

- (i) the lawyer complies with Section 6.2 of the Plan of Legal Specialization for the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization; and,
- (ii) the lawyer includes the full name of the organization in all communications pertaining to such certification.

2. Children's Trust Fund

Children's Trust Fund is looking for grant reviewers. They like to have each request reviewed by at least three professionals in the field. Email Karen if you would like to sign up.

3. Approval of April 27, 2016 Minutes

Amended to add Jennifer Womble's attendance. Approved.

4. "Special Ed 101" Presentation at Southern (9/24/16)

This event was held for both the public and attorneys, and covered the educational rights of special needs students, and corresponding legal obligations of schools. 80 people attended (30 attorneys). Certain administrative appeals have attorney fee-shifting provisions, so young attorneys and solo practitioners may have an interested in learning. The Committee would like to repeat this event at the beginning of every school year.

4. Legislative Report

The most notable legislative development is the "Raise the Age" bill which allows children to stay in the delinquency system until they are 18, instead of automatic placement in the adult system at 17. This does not take effect until next year, and details of the bill are still being worked out.

5. Law School Outreach

In the past the Committee has provided either substantive law sessions in conjunction with an existing course or "skills" session, or informal lunches to talk generally about careers in children's law. Committee members also discussed facilitating experiences for law students to observe juvenile court (assuming parties consent). Margot, Jennifer, Ariel, and Becky volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to coordinate these sessions.

The Committee will push this year for children's law issues to be included in the "Bridging the Gap" seminar for new attorneys, and also the bar exam.

7. "Coming of Age" Brochure & Website/App

The Committee reviewed and finalized the Coming of Age Brochure, with input from Barbara Baldwin of the LSBA Communications Department. The brochure will be available in physical form to distribute at NYTD events and elsewhere, and also available online via a mobile website.

8. Pelican Center Report

The Center is coordinating a "child welfare basics" program on 11/22 in Monroe, which includes 6.5 hours of CLE. The same curriculum will be offered quarterly around the state next year. The Court Improvement Project pays for this, and it's unclear if state scholarships are available (except there is one young lawyers diversity scholarship).

9. Adjournment