

The section successfully sought approval from the CBA to take section position regarding Department of Environmental Protection proposed revisions to the Remediation Standard Regulations, which approval was granted by the Board of Governors at an April 13, 2009 meeting and is valid for one year.

Chair: Nancy K. Mendel

Vice-Chair: Ann Catino

Secretary: Douglas Pelham

Treasurer: Keith Ainsworth

Legislative Liaison: Matthew Ranelli

Court Watch: Loni Gardner, Jessica F. Kallipolites, Tom Armstrong (advisor)

Law School Liaison: Thomas Blatchley

Clyde O. Fisher, Jr. Award: Tim Hollister, Barbara Miller

Continuing Legal Education: Christopher McCormack, Lee Hoffman, Ann Catino

Programs Committee: Ryan McKain, Beth Bryan Critton

FAMILY LAW SECTION

SHIRLEY M. PRIPSTEIN, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The section's purpose is to enhance the practice of family law by providing education to members of the section, by working with the judiciary and family relations division, and by developing positions on issues facing Connecticut's families and family lawyers. Monthly meetings, continuing legal education seminars, and participation in legislative initiatives have been the chief avenues for achieving our purposes.

ANNUAL REPORT

The officers of the section for the past year have been Shirley Pripstein, chair; Livia Barndollar, chair-elect; Barry Armata, vice-chair for continuing legal education; Sharon Dornfeld, secretary; Kate Haakonsen, treasurer; and Louise Truax, chair ex officio. The section holds monthly dinner meetings, a significant component of which is a CLE program. Each meeting has a presentation of recent developments in family law, two minutes from the floor for upcoming events, and other items of interest to practitioners as well as one or more featured speakers.

This year, presentations included a panel discussion the effect of the housing bubble burst and stock market decline on asset valuation; a presentation by Dr. Robert Horowitz on "parenting coordination" (a term of art for the family practitioner), and a panel discussion on the pros and cons of collaborative divorce.

Our vice chair for continuing legal education, Barry Armata, has not only done a fine job arranging and coordinating the programs for our regular meetings but also organized two programs for the Annual Meeting: "Annual Review of Family Law" and "Connecticut Divorce Processes (alternative resolution mechanisms)."

On November 18, 2008, Judge Linda Munro, Chief Administrative Judge, Family Division, gave an informative discussion on her goals for her term as chief administrative judge and her view of the proper role of a *guardian ad litem* for a minor child.

Since this was a long legislative session, and our legislative subcommittee—composed of Kate Haakonsen, Edie McClure, and Shirley Pripstein—were busy evaluating and responding to the myriad of family law legislative proposals that seem to appear every long session. Our subcommittee spends many hours in research, meetings with legislators, testimony, and coordinating with our CBA lobbyists and other interest groups.

Our arbitration subcommittee, chaired by Rob Zaslow, has developed a draft arbitration bill specifically for family law. We hope to be ready with a proposal for the next legislative session.

Our film subcommittee, co-chaired by Larry Sarezky and Deborah Grover, has obtained approval from the CBA to use \$30,000 section funds for the production of a short movie on the effect of a contested custody case on a minor child. Production is in its early stages.

We are fortunate that our section continues to have excellent attendance and participation in its monthly meetings and seminars. I hope you will take advantage of our presentations at the Annual Meeting this year.

FEDERAL PRACTICE SECTION

DAVID N. ROSEN; ELIZABETH J. STEWART, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

The Federal Practice Section is involved with all aspects of practice in the federal courts in Connecticut. Working closely with the federal judges, who are ex officio members of the executive committee, this section provides a forum for consultation and dialogue between the federal bar and bench on issues of mutual interest, including rules and practice in the federal courts, and relevant legislation. Through its committees, the section takes an active role in shaping and commenting on legal and procedural developments affecting federal practice.

ANNUAL REPORT

Section and executive committee meetings provided an opportunity for social interaction and professional dialogue, often in a dinner setting, for lawyers; Circuit, District, Bankruptcy, and Magistrate Judges; and court personnel. The active participation of the federal judiciary is a particular benefit to the section's practicing lawyer members.

The section began the year with a Bench-Bar Conference at St. Clement's Castle on September 19, 2008. The principal panel at the conference was a discussion of federal election law led by a panel of national experts. The attendees also heard from Dean Hugh MacGill of the University of Connecticut Law School and participated in a lively discussion about the law in the movies.

The section's first executive committee meeting was held on October 28, 2008. We heard comments on the District from Chief Judge Chatigny and discussed the goals for the year, which include advocating for a judicial pay raise, educating young lawyers, increasing the involvement of the criminal bar, particularly assistant U.S. attorneys and federal public defenders, and addressing legal services for the poor during this economic downturn.

On December 2, 2008, we held a full section meeting. The principal agenda item was a panel of Judge Mark Kravitz, Frank Silvestri, and Joe Garrison on proposed changes to Federal Rules 26 and 56 on expert and summary judgment procedure, respectively.