

Minutes
Family Commission
April 8, 2009

The Family Commission met in room 607L at the Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse located at 1 Court Street, Middletown, CT on April 8, 2009.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda Munro (Chair), Hon. Holly Aberly-Wetstone, Hon. Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Attorney Michael Blanchard, Hon. John Boland, Attorney Gaetano Ferro, Hon. Stephen Frazzini, Attorney Constance Frontis, Johanna Greenfield, David Iaccarino, Attorney Maureen Murphy, Attorney Thomas Parrino. Hon. Elaine Gordon was able to attend for a few minutes while the meeting was in progress.

Also in attendance was Attorney Joseph Del Ciampo from the Judicial Branch's Legal Services Unit.

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

I. Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the held on February 25, 2009 were approved by the members of the Commission who were in attendance. Judge Stephen Frazzini abstained for having not been at the February 25th meeting.

II. Continue review of family rules

The discussion continued regarding discovery motions as to whether they should be non-arguable and, if so, whether a judicial authority would need to grant argument should it be requested.

A vote was held regarding the following:

So long as certain other provisions detailed at the meeting are incorporated, the proposal would be that discovery motions be non-arguable, argument may be requested, but such argument is at the discretion of the court.

The proposal would address the motion, objection and memorandum as well as the request for argument. The remedy will also be addressed including the duties, authority and compensation for the possible use of discovery special masters and a presumption regarding reasonable attorneys fees to the prevailing party. Certain provisions of

existing rule 13-14 will be mirrored and the Commission will read the Osborne and Weiss cases for discussion at the next meeting. The members of the Commission in attendance voted to pursue said proposal (Attorney Ferro dissenting).

At the next meeting there will be discussion regarding Attorney Ferro's proposed rule 25-X.

III. Proposed rule changes for Family Support Magistrate Court

This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

IV. Correspondence regarding rule changes

This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

V. Rules Committee Referral of Recommendations

The Commission did not address this agenda item at this meeting.

VI. Such other matters that may come before the Commission

The Commission did not address additional matters at this meeting.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in room 607L at Middlesex Superior Court, 1 Court Street Middletown, CT.

The list of outstanding topics includes: the Family Support Magistrate rules proposals—Commission members will review the minutes from the Family Support Magistrate Rules Subcommittee meetings; Attorney Ferro's proposed rule 25-X; the email from Judge Dranginis; correspondence regarding rule changes; continuing duty to disclose (Weinstein); guardian ad litem rule consideration, administrative divorce; case captions and nomenclature for the parties in mediation.

Judge Munro adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.