Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
March 6, 2020

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in Courtroom 400 of the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on March 6, 2020.

Those in attendance: Judge Michael Albis (chair); Judge Edward Graziani; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Attorney Mark Korber

Absent: Attorney Danielle S. Rado; Attorney Bryan Cafferelli; Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly

Also in attendance was Attorney Damon Goldstein and Ms. Lauren Orlowski from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Judge Albis.

I.   Review and Approval of Minutes

       A motion was made by Susan Hamilton, and seconded by Judge Graziani, to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 24, 2020. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0 with 4 Committee members absent. The minutes were approved.

II.   Changes to the Active List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

       a. Attorney Tad Bistor

       Attorney Tad Bistor was removed from the active list because he did not respond to an email sent to him on or about November 16, 2018. Attorney Bistor emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on February 26, 2020. Attorney Bistor meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62.

       After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Susan Hamilton moved, and Mark Korber seconded, that Attorney Bistor be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved his reinstatement by a 5-0 vote with 4 Committee members absent.

III.   Pre-service Training

Susan Hamilton led the members in discussion about the 2020 training for new GALs, which is tentatively scheduled to be held June 11, 12, and 19. The Legislative Office Building is the tentative location, though the ultimate location should be determined by the next meeting of the full Committee. A detailed outline of the training will be provided to the Committee members at the next meeting. This item will remain on the agenda for a report back from the Training Subcommittee.

IV.   Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be April 24, 2020 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Hartford Judicial District Courthouse located at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, with the room to be determined.

V.   Such Other Matters as may Properly Come Before the Standing Committee

At 2:23 PM in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(a)., Liza Andrews moved, and Mark Korber seconded, to enter executive session to discuss complaints for removal of guardians ad litem. The Committee approved going into executive session by a 5-0 vote with 4 Committee members absent. Damon Goldstein and Lauren Orlowski were asked by the Committee to remain present for the executive session.

The executive session concluded and the Committee reconvened in open session at 2:41 PM.

A motion was made by Susan Hamilton, and seconded by Liza Andrews, to accept the Probable Cause Panel's recommendation of dismissing the complaint in question. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with 4 Committee members absent. The complaint was dismissed

A motion was then made by Judge Graziani, and seconded by Mark Korber, to accept the second Probable Cause Panel's recommendation of dismissing the second complaint in question. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote with 4 Committee members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

Mark Korber moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by a 5-0 vote with 4 Committee members absent. Judge Albis adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM.