

Minutes
Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and
Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters
April 22, 2024

The Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met on April 22, 2024. The meeting convened by the chair in Courtroom 400 at 95 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Those in attendance: Judge Leo Diana (Chair); Judge Jennifer Macierowski; Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Attorney Edward Bryan; Attorney Renee Cimino (designated by the Chief Public Defender); Mr. Stephen B. Carragher, Public Health Services Manager, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, Department of Public Health

Absent: Attorney Bryan Cafferelli; Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly; Attorney Nisa Khan

Also in attendance were Attorney Jennifer Gagosz, Assistant Bar Counsel; Attorney Grace Palo, Assistant Bar Counsel; Attorney Damon Goldstein and Ms. Nicole Collins from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

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

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Liza Andrews and seconded by Edward Bryan to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 11, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0 with Judge Macierowski and Stephen Carragher abstaining and three members absent.

II. Possible Removal of Individuals from List of Persons Qualified to Serve as a GAL/AMC

At 2:06 PM, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6), Judge Macierowski moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, to enter executive session to discuss complaints for removal of guardians ad litem. The Committee approved of going into executive session by a 6-0 vote with three members absent. The executive session concluded, and the Committee reconvened in open session at 2:10 PM.

a. Complaint #23-0008

A motion was made by Judge Macierowski and seconded by Liza Andrews to accept the Probable Cause Panel's findings of no probable cause and recommendation of dismissing the complaint. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote with three members absent. The complaint was dismissed.

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

a. Ms. Amy Korte

Ms. Amy Korte was removed from the active list in January 2024 because the committee did not receive her response to its annual request for updated information. Ms. Korte emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on April 19, 2024. Ms. Korte meets all the requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62(b).

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Judge Macierowski moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Ms. Korte be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved the reinstatement by a 5-0 vote with Renee Cimino abstaining and three members absent.

b. Attorney Amy Calvo MacNamara

Attorney Amy Calvo MacNamara was removed from the active list in January 2018 because the committee did not receive her response to its annual request for updated information. Attorney MacNamara emailed a request to be reinstated to the active list on April 3, 2024. Attorney MacNamara meets all requirements of Practice Book Section 25-62(b).

After a brief discussion by the participating Committee members, Edward Bryan moved, and Liza Andrews seconded, that Attorney MacNamara be reinstated to the active list. The Committee approved the reinstatement by a 6-0 vote with three members absent.

IV. Pre-Service Training Update

Renee Cimino provided an update from the discussions of the Training Subcommittee, in which the members have identified the topics and proposed presenters for the pre-service training that is scheduled to be held in fall 2024. The Subcommittee members who were present inquired if the training should be held in-person or virtually? After a discussion by the Committee, it was agreed that the training will be conducted virtually and recorded so individuals who cannot attend the training in the fall will be able to take it in the future.

V. Review and Possible Revisions to the Procedures by Which an Individual May be Removed from the List of Those Deemed Eligible for Appointment as a Guardian Ad Litem or Attorney for the Minor Child in Family Matters

A draft of proposed revisions to the procedures by which an individual may be removed from the active GAL/AMC list was provided for the Committee members to review. Members of the Committee will review the proposed revisions and will state any additional suggestions that they may have before the next Committee meeting.

VI. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters will be held Monday June 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

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

If a Committee member is contacted outside of a Committee meeting by anyone who is not a Committee member or Committee staff asking to discuss matters that are or may come before the Committee, the member should contact the Chair or Committee staff.

Judge Macierowski moved, and Judge Diana seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved the motion by a 6-0 vote with three members absent. Judge Diana adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.