

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
FAMILY LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2020

Chair, Randi L. Rubin, Esquire, presided.

- I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Randi called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The meeting was conducted by videoconferencing, approximately 62 people were registered to participate.
- II. **CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO MINUTES:** Not addressed.
- III. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial information was not available as of the time of the meeting.
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- A. Resolution _____ - regarding pardons circulated prior to the meeting. Resolution was previously approved by the section in 2019. Instructions given on how to vote on the resolution if you are a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.
 - B. Rattles, Rings and Other Things was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are exploring other options for volunteerism during Covid-19.
 - C. Randi participated in a Philadelphia Bar Association Section Chair Meeting with Chancellor Snyder and learned that the Bar Association is in support of virtual bar exams with proctors, options are still being explored.
- V. **PROGRAM:** Navigating Custody Issues within COVID-19 with panelists Susan Pearlstein and Stephanie Stecklair.
- A. Discussion of how Governor Wolf's statewide stay at home order impacts existing custody orders including issues related to interstate travel, issue spotting, alternate custody schedules by agreement, custody cases with domestic violence components, the procedure for filing an emergency custody petition in Philadelphia and best practices during this time.
 - B. AAML Guidelines shared which encourages parties to:
 - Be Healthy
 - Be Compliant
 - Be Transparent
 - Be Understanding
 - Be Mindful
 - Be Creative
 - Be Generous

- C. Discussion of speaking with the Court about enabling e-filing from the Family Law Section. Arly Smith-Pearson proposed a letter signed by the section and submitted to the Family Court.
- D. Anne Funge referenced how the Bucks County Courts issued a detailed protocol of what parties should do if one parent is Covid positive.
- E. The entire program is available for viewing online on the Philadelphia Bar Association website.

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Committee meeting times/dates and announcements are disseminated over the Family Law Section’s listserv.

VII. **MINDFUL/WELLNESS TIP:**

VIII. **GOOD & WELFARE:** None.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

NEXT SECTION MEETING: The next Family Law Section Meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and will be conducted via videoconferencing. The program topic is “RELIGION IN FAMILY LAW: AN EXPLORATION OF RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE CONTRACTS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS IN FAMILY LAW MATTERS.” Panelists Aisha Rahman and Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt will discuss the enforceability of the Islamic marriage contract in U.S. Courts and will be joined by Caitlin Cherkin and Lee Schwartz. This CLE is approved for 1.5 substantive CLE credits.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be on April 23, 2020 at 12:00 and will be conducted via videoconferencing.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aneesah El-Amin-Jaamia
Aneesah El-Amin-Jaamia, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS (NONE):