

**PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**FAMILY LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 9, 2020**

*Chair, Randi L. Rubin, Esquire, presided.*

- I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Randi called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Judge Margaret Murphy, Administrative Judge of Family Court; Judge Walter J. Olszewski, Supervising Judge of Domestic Relations Court, Judge Rainy Papademetriou, Judge Doris Pechkurow and newly elected judges: Judge Tiffany Palmer, Judge Jennifer McCabe, Judge Daniel Sulman.
- II. **CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO MINUTES:** None.
- III. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial information was not available as of the time of the meeting.
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
  - A. Three (3) new members were added to the Executive Committee with two (2) year terms ending 1/1/22:
    - a. Clay Cauley
    - b. Pat Cooper
    - c. Rebecca Levin
  - B. Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania's 2020 Lunar New Year Banquet - The Year of the Rat, Thursday, February 6, 2020, 6:00 PM Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar) 7:00 PM Dinner, Ocean Harbor Restaurant 1023 Race Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 – Flyer attached.
- V. **PROGRAM:** State of the Union of the Family Courts by Judge Murphy, Robson Forensic Speakers and Committee Chairs Summaries and Sign-ups
  - A. Judge Murphy advised that the Family Court is in an excellent spot.
    - a. She welcomed and introduced the new Judges, The Honorable Tiffany Palmer (Domestic Relations), The Honorable Jennifer McCabe (Dependency) and the Honorable Daniel Sulman (Domestic Relations). Judge Murphy thanked the Section for the warm send off for Judge Pechkurow. She also advised that Judge Ford is on leave following her double knee replacement and is expected to return on March 14, 2020. Judge Cohen is also back on the bench.
    - b. Judge Murphy discussed the initiatives in dependency, including training more volunteer attorneys for court-appointment and encouraging members to recruit dependency lawyers to join the Section.

- c. Judge Murphy reported that the Help Center is doing amazing work. She provided the following statistics: The Help Desk assisted 93 matters since January 9, 2020 and helped a total of 3,319 matters in 2019. She added that the Help Desk has assisted 13,343 matters since its inception on April 4, 2015.
  - d. Following Tom Kenny's retirement, Judge Murphy indicated that the Court is working on finding a replacement.
  - e. The Court is continuing to search for a divorce master to add to the Court's roster.
  - f. Every courtroom is being used and is staffed.
  - g. William Shenk, Clerk of Court distributed the attached list of the Family Court Judges' telephone numbers and court rooms
- B. Robson Forensics spoke of the expert services they offer in health care, abuse and custody cases, school selection, forensic evaluations and psychology evaluations.
- C. Committee Chairs discussed their purpose, programs and meetings and lists were disseminated to the section for sign-ups. Committee Section sign-ups are attached.
- VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Committee meeting times/dates and announcements are disseminated over the Family Law Section's listserv.
- VII. **MINDFUL/WELLNESS TIP:** Stephanie Steckclair of Klehr Harrison, provided a tip for drinking lots of water and recommended that when feeling stressed to take time to exercise to relieve it.
- VIII. **GOOD & WELFARE:** None.

**NEXT SECTION MEETING:** The Family Law Section Next Meeting, February 3, 2020 at Courthouse at 12:00 p.m. The program will be "HOT TIPS FROM THE BENCH," where the bench will share with the Section individual policies and procedures for appearing in their courtrooms.

**NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next meeting will be on January 23, 2020 at 12:00 on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, Committee Room South at 1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

*Randi L. Rubin*

Randi L. Rubin, Chair

Transcribing for Secretary,  
Aneesah El-Amin-Jaamia

**ATTACHMENTS (4):**

1. 2020 Family Court Judicial Courtrooms and Telephone Numbers
2. Attendance Sign-In Sheet
3. Committee Sign-Up Sheets
4. Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania's 2020 Lunar New Year Banquet