

**PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION  
FAMILY LAW SECTION MEETINGS**

**Meeting of February 19, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 by Meredith Brennan, Esquire and concluded at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Meredith welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Custody Master's Jackie Vergara, Esquire and Kate Scrivner, Esquire.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no changes to the January 2014 minutes.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

As of January 31, 2014 the Section's treasury had a balance of net assets in the amount of \$20,124.00. A copy of the report is attached.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The marriage equality resolution that our section co-sponsored with the LGBT Right Committee was presented to the Board of Governors on January 27, 2014 and was unanimously approved.

**V. DISCUSSION**

There was lengthy discussion concerning Judge Murphy's letter to the section regarding the backlog of custody cases.

The Custody Committee has been working on the issue and prepared a Proposal for Ameliorating the Backlog.

As far as volunteers, a show of hands indicated near unanimous support for volunteers from the section for both a conciliation approach and to assist in providing self-help assistance primarily in the form of educating litigants.

Additional discussions addressed identifying the cause of the backlog, the responsibility for ameliorating the backlog, the public's knowledge, the need for measurable data and what resources will be required to correct systemic failures. A task force will be established to address longer-term solutions to the backlog.

Meredith Brennan, Esquire and Michael Bertin, Esquire (Chairman of the Custody Committee) will advise Judge Murphy of the sections willingness to assist.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Information relating to Committee reports and meeting dates will be disseminated over the List Serve.


**VII. GOOD AND WELFARE**

- None

**Next Section Meeting:** Monday, March 3, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market Street, 11th Floor.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, March 13, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room South.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bost, Esquire  
Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:  
Treasurer's report  
Recent Slip Opinions