

Philadelphia Bar Association

Family Law Section Minutes

March 5, 2018

- I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Ann welcomed the group and attending Judges, including Judge Mallios and Judge Thompson.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
  - a. Ann to put Court relations minutes on the FLS website, and she reiterated that there was an open door policy.
  - b. Bella Schnall will take on updating the Philadelphia Family Court directory for practitioners.
  - c. Intra-County Phillies Game, to be scheduled with other area Family Law Sections, tentatively scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>. More information and registration to be forthcoming.
  - d. Judge Thompson highlighted a television program scheduled that evening on CNN on paternity
  - e. Mentoring - interest expressed by Drexel Law Students (for informal mentoring) and Villanova Law Students (for formal mentoring). Bar Mentoring Committee to meet and to send survey to gauge interest in both approaches.
  - f. Good news! Philadelphia Dependency Lawyers may be obtaining a rate increase.
  - g. Case Law Updates: Jim Cushing, Esq.
  - h. Rules Updates: Scott Finger, Esq.
- III. **PROGRAM :**
  - a. Speaker: Tony Lapp of Menergy
  - b. Menergy primarily addresses intimate partner violence but has been expanding to deal with workplace conflicts. Provides anger management counseling and partner abuse intervention.
  - c. Payment for services: If through Parole or a Child Welfare case, no cost to participant directly. If private referral, there is a sliding scale that is income based. Some insurance programs may cover the counseling.
  - d. There is a growing use for this kind of practice. Use of a shared safety plan - which is designed to screen for both perpetrators and victims. Can be done by a Doctor or other trained professional.
  - e. Clients referred to Menergy can typically be seen within a week of their first contact.
  - f. There are three types of perpetrators
    - i. Liar - never happened
    - ii. "justified" violence - happened but was appropriate response.
    - iii. Regretful violator - understands and acknowledges and works to more appropriate response.
- IV. **GOOD AND WELFARE**

Next Meeting: April 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted: Eileen G. Murphy