

GAL Review Board Meeting
July 18, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.
Board of Overseers of the Bar – Augusta

Minutes

Call to order: A meeting of the GAL Review Board was held on April 11, 2018. A quorum being present, the meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. with Chair Prescott presiding. Board members in attendance were Dana E. Prescott, Kenneth P. Altshuler (via phone), Karen E. Boston, Lisa A. Bryant, Armanda B. Day (via phone), Malcolm T. Dow, Brenda M. Harvey, Christopher P. Leddy, and Diane A. Tennies. Also in attendance were staff members Aria Eee, Jacqueline M. Rogers, and special guest Chief Judge Susan Oram. Catherine C. Miller, Mary J. Zmigrodski, and Judicial Liaison Justice Joseph M. Jabar were unable to attend the meeting.

1) Approve April 11, 2018 Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Dow and second by Ms. Harvey, the April 11, 2018 Minutes were unanimously approved.

2) Administrative Matters

a) Roster Report/Registration Update

Ms. Rogers provided a written and verbal report with respect to registration statistics. The GAL roster stands at 217, representing a decrease of two over the prior reporting period.

b) Consider Proposed Amendment to Rule 9(b)(1)

Ms. Eee provided an overview of the proposed amendment to Rule 9(b)(1). After discussion and upon motion by Mr. Leddy and second by Ms. Tennies, Board members voted unanimously to recommend the attached proposed amendment, as amended, to the Court.

2) CLE Subcommittee Report

a) Summary of Approved Courses

Ms. Tennies provided an update on course approvals. Given that registration is underway, she noted that there is a higher than usual number of requests from individual GALs seeking credit for courses that were previously presented. She advised that the CLE Subcommittee continues to carefully review all programs to ensure that they meet the standards contained in the rules.

Ms. Rogers advised that she has received inquiries from GALs who are short on ethics credit seeking guidance on how to obtain those credits. At present, there are no approved courses scheduled that contain an ethics component. After discussion, it was decided that the GAL Review Board would host one or more one-hour ethics video replays. The ethics topics will be garnered from an approved program previously sponsored by the Court. The replays will be held in the conference room at the Board of Overseers of the Bar.

3) Update from the AOC

Judge Oram reported that the Court continues to seek and review applications for new GALs. Once a sufficient number of applications are received in areas of the state where there is a need for GALs, the Court will present the required training. Judge Oram also advised that Elaine Clark is no longer the Director of the Family Division as she is the new Director of Communications/Legislative and Media Liaison. Efforts are underway to fill the vacancy.

4) Judicial Liaison Report

Passed over

5) Chair Report

No report.

6) Docket Report and Statistics

Deputy Bar Counsel Eee provided a report on active cases as well as statistical data regarding closed matters.

7) New Business

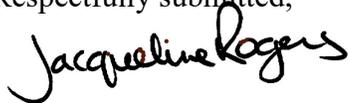
Deputy Bar Counsel Eee shared a concern with Board's staff recent attempt to obtain a docket record in a GAL family matter. Judge Oram explained the court's protocol for such requests and advised that she will discuss the concern with Elizabeth Maddaus, Director of Clerks of Courts.

8) Confirm next meeting date of October 17, 2018

Board members confirmed the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the office of the Board of Overseers of the Bar in Augusta.

Upon motion by Ms. Tennes and second by Mr. Leddy, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline M. Rogers
Executive Director