

ACBA Juvenile Law Committee
2010-2011 Year-End Report
Submitted by: Jennifer Staley McCrady

Our monthly meetings were scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month from September to June. A monthly agenda was provided to all members via email and members were asked to submit any other issues as "new business" during the meetings. Minutes were emailed when completed and I did field a few questions regarding the minutes for members who were unable to attend.

I emailed a letter to committee members and encouraged them to attend. Our subcommittee participation was lacking. In June subcommittee chairs were named and in July 2011 members were sent an email asking them to sign up for a committee.

Dorie Schnippert attended our meetings, provided minutes and provides myself and the committee with information about policy and practices. Marlene Ellis assisted Mr. Jeffrey Pollock with the Juvenile Justice Awards. Both Dorie and Marlene continue to be an excellent support to the subcommittee.

The Supreme Court Juvenile Rules committee has issued a number of new rules this year affecting both dependency and delinquency. The committee has actively discussed the rules and has been provided email updates of any new rule changes. The Committee has been kept up to date of any legislation that is pending or passed that directly impacts children representation.

The Juvenile Law Committee sponsored a CLE on September 19, 2009 titled Education Issues: from enrollment to disputes. The CLE consisted of presenters from the Education Law Center and the Disability Rights Network and the committee received positive feedback regarding the CLE.

The Juvenile Law Committee hosted a CLE at the Bench Bar Conference. The CLE focused on the educational rights of youth in congregate care. The CLE was very well attended. The CLE subcommittee has several events scheduled in 2011. The Juvenile Law Committee and the Association of Municipal and School Solicitors are hosting a Back to School Roundtable. The Committee and the Family Law Section are co-sponsoring a CLE in September about Act 101 and post adoption contact agreements. Finally, the committee has three lunch and learns scheduled. Ms. Renee Kimball will be the chair of the CLE of subcommittee.

Members were encouraged to participate in various community service projects during the year. Specifically the Stepping Out program run by the Young Law Section and a holiday project at the court house. Ms. Jill Beck will chair the public service committee this year.

The committee held the Juvenile Law Award ceremony and reception at the Rivers Club and this year recipient was Linda Ehrenreich. The event was lovely and Ms. Ehrenreich was truly honored to receive the award. Mr. Jeffrey Pollock will continue to chair this subcommittee.

Several opinions have been circulated to the opinion subcommittee and opinions were published in the Pittsburgh Legal Journal. Ms. McDonald asked to step down as the Chair of the opinion subcommittee and Mr. Josh Lewis has taken her place.

It is my hope in the remainder of 2011 through 2012 we can encourage participation from our members. We have several exciting events planned for this year. I am very excited about our new leadership at the subcommittee level and I think each of these individuals will help to move the committee forward.