

Family Law Section Report 2013-14

Executive:

Chair: Andrea Dodgson, Deeley Fabbri Sellen

Vice Chair: Jessica Dillon, Tapper Cuddy

Past Chair: Lawrence Pinsky, Taylor McCaffrey

Members:

Connie Petersen, Petersen King

Jurgen Feldschmid, Duboff Edwards Haight and Schater

Meetings: Section meets once per month from September to May.

Legal Education Seminars (all Law at Lunches unless otherwise noted):

- a. November 2013 – Relocation in Family Law presented by Professor Nicolas Bala.
- b. January Mid-Winter 2014 – Important Family Law Cases from the last year, nationally and in Manitoba. Presented by Aaron Franks and Lawrence Pinsky.
- c. February 2014 – Child Protection Issues presented by Regan Thatcher, Jessica Dillon and the Honourable Mr. Justice Thomson.
- d. March 2014 – All day Joint Bench and Bar Symposium on Spousal Support. Presenters: Professor Rollie Thompson, Rachel Pettigrew, Professor Lisa Fainstein, Lawrence Pinsky, Jennifer Cooper and Maria Gordon.
- e. March 2014 – Intersection of Criminal and Family Law: Variation of Bail and Probation orders. Presenters: Jurgen Feldschmid, Victor Belay and the Honourable Madam Justice MacPhail.
- f. April 2014 – Co-sponsored with Collaborative Law Group an all-day seminar on Parent/Child Alienation presented by Dr. Barbara Jo Fidler.
- g. April 2014 – Representing Clients with Mental Health Issues. Presenters: Dr. Barry Campbell and Jana Taylor of the Public Trustee Office.
- h. June 2014 – Welcome to Family Law – What they didn't teach you at Law School. Presenters: The Honourable Madam Justice Allen, Erin Eisbrenner and Andrea Dodgson.

Committees:

- a. Relocation – Committee of health professionals, lawyers, and family law professors with a family judge as advisor made a recommendation to the Manitoba Government for legislation governing relocation in separated families.

- b. Case Conference – proposed changes to the Case Management Rules to give more powers to the Case Conference Judge and procedural steps to take before getting a Case Conference date.
- c. Auto Order Clauses – continuing Committee to improve the Auto Order clauses.
- d. Expungement Sub-Committee – consulted by a Judges' Committee on the family law expungement process.

Social Events:

- a. December 2013 – Annual Holiday Party attended by family lawyers, family judges, masters and court staff. Hosted at Tapper Cuddy.
- b. June 2014 – Annual Family Law BBQ attended by family lawyers, family judges, masters and court staff. Hosted at Taylor McCaffrey.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Dodgson, Chair