

Andrea Davis

From: Ashley Moore <ncaj@ncaj.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 8:32 AM
To: Andrea Davis
Subject: Read All About Family Law Happenings!



September 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

The new NCAJ year got off to an enthusiastic start at the Convention in Wilmington in June. If you have never been to Convention, I encourage you to attend. In addition to the Family Law Section meeting and the excellent Family Law Case Update presented by *Eddie Greene*, the Convention featured several marketing workshops which were informative and practical. The highlight of Convention for me was hearing *Erin Brockovich* speak and having an opportunity to meet her afterwards.

The NCAJ President for the 2011-2012 year is longstanding NCAJ member, **Gary Jackson**. At the Board of Governors meeting at Convention, Gary gave his theme, **Serving People: Our Special Interests** and outlined his goals for the year associated with that theme. As an organization, NCAJ will evaluate what was done during the most recent legislative session and determine what worked well; NCAJ will continue working to prevent bad legislation; and, help the public to recognize what the stakes are and what they stand to lose. In order to accomplish these goals, NCAJ invites its members to:

- ** Be more aggressive servants to the public by sharing our knowledge and spreading helpful information;
- ** Communicate more effectively and swiftly with our clients, whether it is concerning the client's case or an urgent legislative issue;
- ** Restore the public's trust in us as attorneys and legal assistants; and
- ** Improve our online communications by providing more client stories and educational videos for the public.

I recently heard another attorney suggest that a large segment of the voting population NEVER uses the court system. Pondering that observation, I thought of the unique opportunities that we, as family law attorneys, have to educate our clients about the court system, and to influence the client's perception and opinion of lawyers. We all know that the most common complaints about lawyers are that we do not return phone calls and that we do not keep our clients informed about their cases. If we, as individual members of the Family Law Section, would renew our commitment to providing excellent client service to each and every client, we could positively impact a staggering number of people's perceptions of lawyers statewide.

His family law case may be my client's only experience with the court system, and I might be the only lawyer my client will ever know. How will my behavior impact his opinion of lawyers and the legal profession? Will my client see me as dependable, trustworthy and ethical? Or, will he see me as unreliable, self-serving and unprincipled? I have little, if any, control over the outcome of my client's case. I do, however, have control over my behavior.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Friedrichs
Chair, Family Law Section

DISCUSSION ON CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES – JOIN IN!

The Family Law Section leadership is hosting a discussion on **Child Custody Guidelines** and other areas of the family law practice area that may need legislative changes. Section leadership hopes that you, as a NCAJ member who has cases in the family law practice area, can join in the discussion and provide input on what you think is working and what may require legislative changes.

DISCUSSION DETAILS

Date: Friday, September 23, 2011

Time: 12 to 1:30 PM

Location: NCAJ, 1312 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh (Discussion also available by phone.)

Agenda: Child Custody Guidelines & Other Areas for Change Discussion, Open Case Discussion, Upcoming Family Law Events

Food/Beverages: Lunch will be included for those NCAJ members who attend the discussion in person, courtesy of Family Law Section leadership.

RSVP: To AndreaD@ncaj.com and indicate whether you will be attending the discussion in person or by phone. (*Thank you if you previously RSVP'd.*)

This discussion will be a good opportunity for NCAJ members to get connected, talk about what's going on in the family law practice area statewide and address specific areas that require change.

OPTIMIZE YOUR SECTION BENEFITS – TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE RESOURCES TODAY!

submitted by **Ashley Moore**, Section Publications Chair

Whether you have been a Section member for many years or are newly-licensed and this is your first year as a Section member, Family Law Section leadership wants each Section member to get the most out of Section membership. We encourage you to take advantage of these Section member benefits...

LISTSERV

The most useful and responsive tool we have as Section Members is the Family Law Section Listserv. If you are one of the Section members who is not yet a part of the Section's listserv, you are missing the best part of being a Section member! The listserv gives you a chance to catch all the latest news about family law practice in North Carolina and to participate in an ongoing discussion about family law. To join the Section listserv, contact AndreaD@ncaj.com.

SECTION SUBPORTAL

Did you know that the Family Law Section has a dedicated subportal on the NCAJ Members' Website? Well, we do and it's located at family.ncaj.com. The Family Law Section subportal contains contact information for Section leadership, recent Section member roster and Section listserv roster, Section By-Laws, archived Section e-newsletters and a whole bunch more!

SECTION DOCUMENT BANK

Another tremendous Section benefit found at the Family Law Section Subportal is the [Section Document Bank](#). The document bank contains documents, broken down by family law topic, that may be useful to Section members. The Section Document Bank is dynamic -- Section members can upload documents (in pdf format) to the Section Document Bank very easily and at any time.

Section leadership is making an effort during the upcoming year to update the Section document bank. Each month, Section leadership will make a call to members asking members to upload documents (in pdf format) to the Section Document Bank on a given topic. Topics will include Absolute Divorce, Child Custody, Child Support, PSS/Alimony, Equitable Distribution/Interim Distribution, Discovery/Motion to Compel, Agreements, Specific Performance, Contempt, Legitimation/Paternity/Name Changes/Adoption.

Please look through your documents and get ready to answer the call for documents. *If every Section member uploaded just one document per month, by June 2012, the Section Document Bank would be brimming over with 2000 new documents on a wide range of topics.*

LINKS TO USEFUL RESOURCES

Similarly, Family Law Section leadership is making an effort to update the [Links](#) portion of the Section subportal. Please email me at amoore@mhw-law.net with any links to family law resources that you use and you think would be helpful to Section members. Once in receipt, I'll make sure the links get uploaded to the Links portion of the Section subportal.

Our mission this year is to make sure that our members, old and new, optimize their membership by using the tools and resources we have available to us. NCAJ President **Gary Jackson** has charged us with spreading helpful information and sharing our knowledge. We can do this with each other as members by uploading documents to the Document Bank, helping one another on the Listserv and providing links to useful resources; all this will assist in making us better attorneys and legal assistants for our clients.

Family Law Section leadership hopes you take advantage of these benefits, and thanks you, in advance, for your input and submissions!

AWESOME CLE PLANNED JUST FOR YOU – REGISTER TODAY!

Check out these upcoming informative and fun events that have been planned just for you!

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Family Law How-To's: A Practical Guide for Handling a Family Law Case - [Register Today!](#)

*Sheraton Four Seasons
Greensboro*

Program Co-Chairs, **Sarah Carr** and **Karen Jackson**, have created an awesome CLE packed with a powerhouse lineup of speakers that you won't want to miss!

This seminar is designed for attorneys looking to expand their practice to include family law, new attorneys interested in the practice of family law and domestic attorneys looking for a refresher in some of the most common areas of family law. NOTE: This program will NOT be available on video replay, so don't miss your opportunity to hear from some of the most highly regarded members of the family law bar from across the state!

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

Child Custody - Afi Johnson-Parris, Law Office of Afi Johnson-Parris, PLLC, Greensboro

Child Support - Melissa Averett, Averett Law Offices, PLLC, Chapel Hill

Domestic Violence - Rebecca Watts, Krusch & Sellars, P.A., Charlotte

Spousal Support - G. "Trey" Aycock, III, Coltrane, Aycock, and Overfield, Greensboro

Equitable Distribution - Jonathan McGirt, Law Office of Jonathan McGirt, Raleigh

Settlement Documents - Ruth Bradshaw, Davis Harwell & Biggs, PA, Winston-Salem

[Click here](#) for the CLE brochure.

[Click here](#) to register.

OCTOBER 13-16, 2011

Mountain Magic - [Register Today!](#)

*Grove Park Inn
Asheville*

Mountain Magic is a unique opportunity for NCAJ members to network and earn CLE credit while enjoying the fall colors of Western NC! This much-anticipated event offers general sessions for both CIVIL and CRIMINAL practitioners, Fall Conference for Paralegals (6.0 CPE credit hours incl. one Ethics hour), concurrent workshops and opportunities to enjoy networking and down-time with your colleagues from across the state.

Mountain Magic is held at the luxurious Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, nestled among the Blue Ridge Mountains. Bring your spouse along for the weekend and take time to enjoy the award-winning spa, go for a hike to see the beautiful changing leaves, and enjoy dinner at one of Asheville's many eateries. You'll be glad you did!

[Click here](#) for a detailed brochure.

[Click here](#) to register for Mountain Magic.

[Click here](#) to register for the Fall Conference For Paralegals.

SAVE THE DATE!

February 16, 2012

Family Law - Discovery

*Forsyth County Courthouse
Winston-Salem*

JUNE 17-20, 2012

Convention

*Hilton Riverside
Wilmington*

Stay tuned to your inbox, mailbox and listserv for information on when registration opens up for each of these terrific CLEs.

Interested in other CLE? [Click here](#) for the full schedule of live seminars and video replays.

2011-12 FAMILY LAW SECTION OFFICERS

Chair: [Sheryl Friedrichs](#) (Raleigh)
Vice Chair & Ethics Chair: [Blair Cody](#) (Hickory)
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Immediate Past Chair: [Deb Halvorsen](#) (Winston-Salem)
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CLE Chair: [Ruth Bradshaw](#) (Winston-Salem)
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Membership Co-Chair: [Sarah Carr](#) (Chapel Hill)
NLD Section Liaison: [Danielle Caldwell](#) (Greensboro)
Publications Chair: [Ashley Moore](#) (Garner)

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