

Colorado Bar Association
Domestic Violence and Legal Issues
Minutes
December 10, 2008

Present: Kath Schoen, Dianne Van Vorhees, Amy Miller, Carla Scarpone, Diana May and Andrea Love

Statutory Definition of “Spousal Abuse” in domestic relations statute

Several people have shown interest in exploring a more comprehensive definition. There is a North Carolina statute with coercive control type definition in Stark, Coercive Control Book, pg. 382; footnote also includes another state

CFI’s and domestic violence

Jackie St. Joan, a CFI and author of 1995 DV Benchbook, agreed to join DVLI committee. Shirley Thomas, a CFI, is interested in discussing CFI issues with the DVLI committee. Kath will contact her.

CCADV Survey on Custody Process

Domestic violence service providers are being trained in January to administer a survey on how survivors fared in the custody process. CCADV hopes to have some preliminary information by end of February. This project is in collaboration with Professor Ann DuPrince, DU.

Professor Sharon Araji, CU Denver

She is interested in how women are treated in domestic relations court. She offered to help look for students to help analyze data if Professor DuPrince cannot find someone. She also wants to do two videos in CO – public and judicial training on domestic violence survivors in the custody disputes. Kath will invite her to next DVLI meeting

Litigation Abuse

The committee discussed how often batterers (some victims) use the courts as a form of battering. It was suggested that Phil James, legal ethics expert, might be interested in writing an article on the issue. The committee discussed this as section in Bench Book as part of power and control. Kath will send articles published by National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges on the issue to members.

Bench Book

- Bench book committee
 - Linda Johnston, Ending Violence Against Women, is interested in joining the committee
 - Cheryl Davis, DVOMB Program director agreed to write the treatment section
 - Theresa Spahn, Office of Child’s Representative, agreed to talk to Kath and Amy about dependency and neglect.
 - Kay Yorty, SCAO, is the program director for dependency and neglect and is willing to help.

- **Sections** (See attached Tasks and Timeline)
- **Reviewers**
Suggestions include: Emily Anderson – Mag. 17th JD, Judge Barney Iuppa, and Judge Victor Reyes. The committee will ask SCAO for ideas of people to ask

Timeline

- Outlines for Sections by next meeting
- June first draft,
- July/Aug. reviewers