

***COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION***  
**Family Violence Program**  
**Legal Representation for Domestic Violence Survivors Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

Present: Tia Johnson, Amy Miller, Marjorie Sayers, Ariel Brody, Kathleen Schoen, Cheryl Law, Gina Doran, Terry Lopez, Reenie Turjak, Diane Van Voorhees, Anna Paschke, Victoria Vicker, Tracey Schlafer, and Tamara Kuennen

- John Gleason will come speak at our next meeting about the unauthorized practice of law and will also be presenting at CCADV's conference June 29-July 2
- Tammy is still working on creating the chart of all of the different domestic violence definitions. Terry will present to the committee in May about the different domestic violence statutes.
- Anecdotes regarding struggles with conflicting jurisdictions:
  - Concerns were raised regarding judicial application of best interests of the child, an emphasis on both parents seeing the children
  - Plaintiffs are being asked at PPO hearings if they intend to file a DR case and then are being forced to file one, sometimes PPO's are consolidated into DR cases and sometimes they are continued either of which can cause problems for CLS being able to represent the client, this takes away the plaintiff's choice about whether to file the DR case, the judicial argument is that it is best for one judge to make all decisions regarding the family
  - The Supreme Court directive that DR cases should be resolved within 100 days is creating increased pressure on the judicial officers, some judges are not accepting when the defendant consents to the PPO
  - One anecdote was a case where the judge ordered parenting time on the PO even though no parenting time was allowed in the permanent orders in the DR case
  - County courts are forcing plaintiffs to file in district court if there is a prior DR action, some judges are applying the criminal statutes of domestic violence and child abuse to best interests of the child, judges are mandating mediation, additional judicial education needed regarding domestic violence and poverty, need clarification on which jurisdictions supersede others
  - Magistrate Gresch (Douglas County) feels that if the parties get their own agreement then there are fewer future filings, so increased pressure on the parties to make their own agreement
  - In Jefferson County it is said that cases will be consolidated and then they are not
  - There is a judicial perception of ease of abuse of the system