

# Georgia Child Support Guidelines Commission Meeting

## TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

October 12, 2005

*Subcommittee Chair, Judge Michael Key*

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Judge Michael Key presided over the Training Subcommittee Meeting. The meeting was held simultaneously with the Statute Review Subcommittee, chaired by Judge Louisa Abbot. Commission Members attending both meetings include in addition to Judges Key and Abbot: Judge Debra Bernes; Judge Tom Campbell; Sadie Fields; Joy Hawkins; and Chuck Clay. Commission Staff and invited guests were also introduced. This meeting was open to the public.

Following the introductions, Judge Abbot turned the meeting over to Judge Key to address training issues. The meeting minutes from August 25, 2005 Training Subcommittee were distributed and the members were given a few minutes to review them. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Judge Key discussed his goals for this Subcommittee Meeting, which includes:

- To interrelate the Training and Statute Review Subcommittees in order to identify areas of needed training as the Statute Review Subcommittee completes its review of the statute;
- To develop an implementation guides which will be an authoritative work that includes a legislative and executive history so that those being trained will have a complete understanding as to how the statute was developed and why it was developed.

### **II. Identification of Audience—Who Need to be Trained?**

Judge Key acknowledged Stephen Steele as a special invited guest who was here in his official capacity as Chairman of the Family Law Section of the State Bar and by this position attached to the Subcommittee. Stephen has helped this Subcommittee by his work on the Implementation Guide, and more importantly, planning of the statewide training.

Judge Key posed the question, “What role will the Commission play in training?” “Are we the driving force or do we develop expertise and train the trainer and make it available?” Judge Abbot suggested a combination of the two. She said it might well be

that we train a number of persons early on, at the earliest opportunity after we know what the bill will contain, the obligation table will look like and have the worksheets developed. Judge Bernes stated the legal communities' eagerness for training will drive the creation of ICLE classes. Judge Bernes added the more difficult audience to reach will be the lay person training. Judge Bernes stated that it might be OCSE, who already comes into contact with many of these persons, who will take a lead in training the lay persons. Perhaps the Commission can develop training booklets or manuals to keep in the OCSE offices which will assist in the training, as well as provide vital information through the OCSE constituent portal. Sadie Fields said there is a lot of nervousness on the part of the lay persons and proposed the question, "Would it be possible to have a video to accompany the booklet for the layperson education?" Sadie also suggested the use of layman's terms throughout the video to assist in understanding and create ease of tension. Joy Hawkins suggested two videos: one for the layperson and the other for attorneys.

Judge Key stated training should be as follows:

**With Lawyers:** Have as many interactive sites as possible at various locations (four to five) around the state. In addition, he suggested video taping the seminar for future training purposes. Judge Key also suggested working with Legal Aid and other legal associations to encourage training and/or offer training to these group who could in turn train others similar to "Train the Trainer" concept. Steve Steele suggested a meeting with Steve Harper, of ICLE to coordinate training efforts. Judge Abbot pointed out that possibly ICJE should also be included considering the new guideline issue will be a common issue to both lawyers and judges. Judge Abbot added joint participation would eliminate the need for additional seminars when it would be possible to conjoin the two. Judge Key suggested pinpointing April as the ideal month for the training.

On the question of "What would be the feeling of Superior Court judges and State Court judges about having to attend the same training as lawyers?" Judge Abbot stated the Family Law Institute is well-attend by judges and many have been asked to speak. Judge Key also suggested a plenary track with overviews for both lawyers and judges, followed by separate break out sessions.

**With Layperson:** Judge Key suggested The Office of Child Support Enforcement assist with layperson training due to the numerous office locations throughout the state. To facilitate this, additional faculty as well as OCSE staff will be used. Sandy Keating, of Office of Child Support Enforcement, expressed concern in the OCSE's ability to reach those that were not direct clients of OSCE. Judge Key asked if we could develop an approximately two hour public awareness presentation for laypersons? The staff said it can be done. Judge Key even suggested using law firms as sponsors of these presentations. Sadie Fields suggested the use of the PowerPoint presentation developed by Jill Radwin. In summary, Judge Key said the Commission will develop training materials in an advanced format for lawyers, judges and OCSE, as well as a lay presentation which will be more public awareness oriented. We will work with ICLE, ICJE and explore ways to get the word out to the public.

### **III. Identification of Specific Dates, Times and Locations of Classes**

Judge Key proposed the committee to allow ICLE and the Family Law Section to take the lead and provide any needed support. Judge Abbott suggested that the commission stay open to the possibility to follow Tennessee's method of four/five statewide full-day training seminars consisting of five to six trainers to insure adequate training in the legal community.

### **IV. Identification of Budget and Sources of Money and other Financial Resources Available**

Judge Key posed the question to Steve Steele as to whether "ICLE training would be self-sufficient and self-supporting?" Second, he asked if ICLE looks to the Family Law Section to drive training?" Steve Steele stated, "ICLE will produce the seminar and will provide the financial backing for the training." The seminars will be self supporting. The Commission will not be responsible for training attorneys, but will provide support in terms of training and faculty. Steve Steele said any training will be under Judge Key and the Commission's supervision. Jill Radwin said there is also some, but limited funds, for the statewide training.

Judge Key recommended a later meeting of the Georgia Bar Family Law Section, ICLE and ICJE to determine the best method to finance training.

### **V. Identification of the Content of the Training Sessions**

On the question of "What type of training should be available", Judge Key spoke of a simplified two hour public awareness program for laypersons. Judge Key also pointed out initial training should begin in the legal community then address the needs of the general public.

Items for training include: video, implementation guide (judges and lawyers), PowerPoint presentation and a handout/booklet (layperson).

### **VI. Identification of Selection of Instructors**

Judge Abbot recommended trainers come from each respective area such as mediation, lawyers and OCSE.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Judge Abbot resumed the Statute Review Subcommittee Meeting.