



D I S T R I C T O F C O L U M B I A B A R
Family Law Section

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1250 H Street NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC
20005-5937

202-626-3463
FAX 202-626-3453
www.dcbbar.org/sections

Sections EventLine
202-626-3455

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Co-Chair
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The Honorable Rufus G. King III
Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chief Judge King:

It has come to the attention of the Steering Committee of the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar that an administrative order may have been issued setting forth mandatory practice standards for lawyers representing clients in child abuse and neglect proceedings. The Steering Committee, on behalf of the Family Law Section, hereby requests that any such practice standards be made available to the Steering Committee for circulation to members of the Section for review and comment prior to the entry of a final administrative order.

It is our understanding that the proposed practice standards contain comprehensive provisions that would be applicable to attorneys directly or tangentially involved in child abuse and neglect proceedings. There is concern that the standards may affect attorneys who handle cases *pro bono* as well as court-appointed and private practice attorneys. The Steering Committee firmly believes the members of the Family Law Section should have an opportunity to comment on the proposed practice standards prior to implementation since the standards could have a significant impact. The Family Law Section is committed to improving the practice of all attorneys (private, public sector, court-appointed, *pro bono*) to ensure quality representation of children and families.

Thank you for your consideration. The views expressed herein represent only those of the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or its Board of Governors.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Liotta

Margaret J. McKinney

cc: The Honorable Eugene N. Hamilton
The Honorable Zinora M. Mitchell-Rankin
The Honorable Mary Ellen Abrecht
The Honorable Susan R. Winfield
The Honorable Henry F. Greene