

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S DOMESTIC LAW COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The Domestic Law Committee will provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding family domestic law, including domestic violence. The Committee will recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of domestic law.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

The Committee will review all policies, rules and legislation regarding family domestic matters to include areas such as adult guardianship, domestic violence, custody, and child support. It will make recommendations regarding the same. The Committee will review systemic issues regarding domestic law and make recommendations for improvement. It also will collaborate with justice partners to ensure a holistic approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives involving domestic matters. The Committee will oversee the review and update of the Domestic Violence Manual and other Judiciary publications and forms related to domestic law. The Committee will report on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Chair

NAME	TERM
Hon. Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Deborah S. Eyler, Court of Special Appeals	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. James H. Green, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Lisa Hall Johnson, District Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Fred Hecker, Circuit Court Carroll County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Mary A. Kramer, Circuit Court, Howard County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Magistrate Connie Marvel, Circuit Court, Wicomico County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Magistrate Jean Meta, Circuit Court, Queen Anne's County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Richard Sandy, Circuit Court, Frederick County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Cathy H. Serrette, Circuit Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Magistrate Hope Tipton, Circuit Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Dorothy J. Wilson, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, *Staff*

SUBCOMMITTEES

NAME: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PEACE ORDER SUBCOMMITTEE

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee will provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation that relate to domestic violence and peace orders. The Subcommittee will recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective management of domestic violence and peace order

proceedings. The Subcommittee will also review and update the Domestic Violence Manual, together with the Domestic Violence and Peace Order forms in use in the Circuit and District Courts.

MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Angela Eaves, Chair

NAME	TERM
Hon. Brian D. Green, District Court, Carroll County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. James H. Green, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Lisa Hall Johnson, District Court, Prince George’s County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Michael T. Pate, District, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Gregory Sampson, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016
Hon. Kimberly Thomas, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

Consultants:

Rose Day, Executive Director of Operations, District Court Headquarters

Timothy D. Haven, Executive Director of Commissioners, District Court

Tiwana Richardson, Supervisor, Landlord & Tenant/Domestic Violence, District Court, Montgomery County

Roberta Warnken, Chief Clerk, District Court Operations

Powel Welliver, Family Law Administrator, Circuit Court, Carroll County

David R. Shultie, Esq., *Staff*

ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT

This subcommittee will prepare an annual update to the Domestic Violence Manual, and update on line Judiciary forms for Peace Order and Domestic Violence cases to ensure compliance with periodic statutory Revisions. The Subcommittee also will assist in preparing trainings, in addition to those offered through the Judicial Institute, for commissioners and other court staff on issues related to domestic violence. The Subcommittee will screen and comment on legislative initiatives referred to the Domestic Law Committee that relate specifically to domestic violence and peace order matters.

EXPECTED DURATION

In light of the need for ongoing updates to the domestic violence manual, and the domestic violence and peace order forms and the need for training on issues in these areas, it is anticipated that this will be a standing committee of indefinite duration.

WORK GROUPS

NAME: LEGISLATIVE REVIEW WORK GROUP

NATURE AND PURPOSE

This work group provides commentary, input, and testimony as needed to assist the Legislative Committee in its review of legislative initiatives in the domestic law arena.

MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Chair

Hon. Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court, Montgomery County
Magistrate Alisia Ferguson, Circuit Court, Prince George's County
Hon. James Green, District Court, Baltimore City
Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, Esq., Director, Department of Family Administration
Hon. Cathy Serrette, Circuit Court, Prince George's County

ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT

This work group will provide input to the Legislative Committee concerning proposed legislation in the domestic law arena. This group will also assist in providing testimony or commentary, upon request from the Legislative Committee, for legislative matters in the domestic law area.

EXPECTED DURATION

This work group will meet throughout the legislative session, subject to extension if there are study groups or commissions that require legislative input outside the legislative session. This work group will likely be re-formed in December each year, in anticipation of the legislative session.

NAME: GUARDIANSHIP WORK GROUP

PURPOSE

This work group has been tasked with surveying existing guardianship practices throughout the State in order to make recommendations to ensure best practices are employed in guardianship matters to ensure the safety and well-being of those subject to guardianship, and the effective management and accounting for guardianship assets.

MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Karen Jensen, Chair

Hon. Alison Asti, Circuit Court, Caroline County
Hon. Louis Becker, Retired
Valarie Colmore, DHR, Social Services Administration, Office of Adult Services
Hon. Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Chair, Domestic Law Committee, Circuit Court, Baltimore County
Robin Cummings, Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County
Audre Davis, Esq., Director, Maryland Legal Services Program, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Sharon, Christmas-Deberry, Esq., Trust Attorney, Circuit Court, Prince George's County
Angela Grau, Esq., Davis, Agnor, Rapaport, and Skalny, LLC
Hon. Althea M. Handy, Circuit Court, Baltimore City
Lili Khozeimeh, Esq., Adoption/Guardianship Case Manager, Circuit Court, Montgomery County
Andrea Parks, Adoption/Guardianship Case Manager, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County
Debbie Riley, Manager, Adult Public Guardianship Program, Baltimore County Department of Aging
Ria Rochvarg, Esq., Ria Rochvarg, P.A.

Ofelia Ross-Ott, Division Manager, Home and Community Based Services, Howard County Office on Aging
Greg Sesek, Program Specialist, Adult Public Guardianship, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Hon. Patrick Woodward, Court of Special Appeals
Phoenix Woody, Guardianship and Legal Services Manager, Maryland Department of Aging

Connie Kratovil-Lavell, Esq., *Staff*
Nisa Subasinghe, Esq., *Staff*

ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT

This work group will review and update guardianship forms in use throughout the State. The work group will also review and make recommendations for training for guardianship attorneys and for guardians, and will make recommendations concerning implementation of best practices to ensure proper care for the safety and well-being of those subject to guardianship, along with standards employed in overseeing management of guardianship assets.

EXPECTED DURATION

This work group is expected to conclude its work in one to two years. A report on the status of these projects will be made by December 2015, and the expected duration will be reviewed at that time.

NAME: COURT PROCESS WORK GROUP

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Guardianship Work Group will explore how states employ parenting plans and address expedited hearings, both emergency and non-emergency.

MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Richard Sandy, Chair

Hon. Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court, Montgomery County
Magistrate Alisia Ferguson, Circuit Court, Prince George's County
Hon. Mary Kramer, Circuit Court, Howard County
Connie Kratovil-Lavelle, Esq, Director, Department of Family Administration

ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT

The Work Group will provide recommendations to the Domestic Law Committee in May 2016 regarding parenting plans. Final recommendations expected to be presented to the Domestic Law Committee in December 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION

This work group is expected to conclude its work in one to two years. A report on the status of these projects will be made by December 2016, and the expected duration will be reviewed at that time.

NAME: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORK GROUP

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Domestic Violence Work Group was formed to review and discuss the CourtWatch Report dated November 2, 2015 and to provide recommendations for consideration to the Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee regarding the report and its recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Kimberly M. Thomas and Hon. James H. Green
Co-Chairs

Captain Holly L. Barrett, Commander, Maryland State Police
Charles Dorsey, Esq., Deputy Public Defender for the State of Maryland
Brenda Harkavey, Senior Assistant, Domestic Violence Unit, Carroll County State's Attorney
Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq., House of Ruth Maryland
Hon. T. Michael Pate, District Court, Baltimore County
Sheriff Darren M. Popkin, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

ANTICIPATED WORK PRODUCT

The Work Group will provide recommendations to the Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee regarding the CourtWatch Report and provide its recommendations to the court.

EXPECTED DURATION

This work group met on February 16, 2016 and made its recommendation to the Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee on March 16, 2016. There are no plans to reconvene the work group at this time.