

FLS February Newsletter

CALENDAR

Section Lunch CLE's

March 9, 2016

The Spectrum of Reunification: How to Know What Your Client Needs

April 13, 2016

May 11, 2016

June 8, 2016

July 13, 2016

September 14, 2016

October 12, 2016

November 9, 2016

Family Law CLE

Marriage Dissolution

Galveston
April 97- 8

Advanced Family Law

San Antonio
August 1- 4

From the Chair

This being the first e-newsletter of the year, I thought I would begin by saying, "Happy New Year!" Whether you are happy or sad to say goodbye to 2015, we look forward to 2016 with the hope of better things to come. The DBA Family Law Section ("FLS") is already working hard on **great events for our membership this year.**

Our annual **Bench Bar CLE** occurred Friday, February 12, 2016. It was the culmination of a lot of hard work that began last year. Marilea Lewis,

this year's FLS Vice Chair, put together an amazing program. She and her team worked night and day and did a fantastic job!



In addition to Bench Bar, the FLS works diligently each year to offer our members and the family law community several opportunities to access thoughtful, relevant, and comprehensive CLE throughout the year. This year is no different. In addition to the CLE presentations offered at our **monthly section meetings**, held on the second Wednesday of the month in all months except February, August, and December, we include a **Case Law Update**

so you are kept up-to-date on appellate decisions. We are also teaming up with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program to offer **Ad Litem/Amicus Attorney training** (occurring April 21, 2016, at the Belo) and the annual **Jeff Coen Family Law Nuts & Bolts CLE** (dates to be announced; traditionally held in September).

(Continued on page 2)

Bench Bar 2015 (cont.)

Chances to socialize and interact with each other outside of our casework help build camaraderie. Our annual **happy hour events** and **annual picnic** make membership in the FLS all the more meaningful. These events have become so successful that we are launching the **“We Are Family” program** to offer additional fun activities. More details are forthcoming so stay tuned.

Become a member today for \$35.00 and enjoy all of the benefits to come!

As a member, you have already received communication from the FLS regarding the Dallas District Clerk’s office and iDocket. Please continue to send us your issues and concerns by contacting me at kathleen@ward-turton.com. Many of you have contacted me already. The FLS met with the District Clerk’s office on February 11, 2016. We were able to hand them a report detailing everything that our members have communicated to us. We will continue to keep these lines of communication open between you, our members, and the District Clerk’s office. We hope to have a meeting scheduled with the District Clerk very soon for a public, in-person presentation to our members and the family law community.

Charles Geilich

Like you, I'm concerned about this newly-discovered, giant planet that may be circling around our sun at a considerable distance. The scientists will tell you that it's perfectly understandable why we missed it for all this time. They'll tell you things about its vast distance, its darkness, its peculiar orbit, etc. Don't believe it!

These are the same people who told you in school that Pluto is a planet. They made you memorize that fact. They named a cartoon character after it. And then they yanked Pluto away. Ipso facto, they are wrong about this new planet, too. (Furthermore, it turns out that the cartoon dog named Pluto was all made up, too).

The reason they missed it is because it wasn't there until just recently. Hey, I know a thing or two about science (I mean, literally, a thing, maybe two), and I can tell you with authority that Planet Nine hasn't been hanging around for a few billion years. More like last Fall, by my calculations.

How else do you explain the rise of Donald Trump as a serious presidential contender? And no, I don't intend this as a partisan swipe, because there is also Bernie Sanders on the other side. Look, these two guys have been around for decades, long before Planet Nine showed up, but suddenly millions of Americans look at these two "made for Saturday Night Live" characters and, say, "Hm, yeah, I could see that guy as President. I wonder why I never saw it before." Now you know why.

A barrel of oil cheaper than a barrel of water? Come on, how likely is that, but here we are. I see women carrying small dogs in their arms inside the mall, people carrying guns on their hips, and how does Peyton Manning, who I'm pretty sure played for George Halas in the 20s, win a Super Bowl at 93 years old? It's all in the stars, my friend, but more specifically, Planet Nine.

We have gay marriage in Texas, even in Oklahoma I'm told (though I remain skeptical of that claim), and Alabama court clerks who claim to interpret the Constitution. Daily fantasy sports is evil gambling, but playing the state-sanctioned lottery is your civic duty. It's popular for cell phones to be bigger, not smaller, and nobody can tell the difference anymore between a black dress and a gold dress. Vast numbers of South American women have been told, seriously, by health authorities to refrain from getting pregnant, like this is a reasonable medical suggestion for entire nations with sketchy TV reception.

And we walk around acting like we're not surprised by any of this. Really, now, what's next, tornadoes in Dallas in winter? Oh, right.

Charles is a Dallas family-law mediator and sometime writer, **and he's doing the best he can with what he's got.**



He can be reached at cngelich@gmail.com

Bench Bar 2016



Bench Bar 2016 (cont.)



Bench Bar 2016 (cont.)



Bench Bar 2016 (cont.)



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

What would you like to read about in our monthly newsletters?

If you have suggestions on specific topics you are interested to learn about this year that may affect your practice or your clientele, please let the editorial committee know by contacting Holly Friedman Biederman at hbiederman@duffee-eitzen.com

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