

**FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**11 May 2010**  
Start : 5.30pm  
At Martineau, 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham.

**In attendance**

Mary Kaye	Martineau	Chairman
Jane Robson	Birmingham City Council	Vice-Chairman
Marc Saunderson	Mills & Reeve	
District Judge Dowding	Birmingham County Court	
Grant Bird	Blair Allison	
Jane Mullen	St Ives Chambers	
Vanessa Meachin	St Philips	
Claire Darley	Martineau	
Marie Kilgallen	Martineau	Minutes
Karen Moores	Sydney Mitchell	
Victoria Green	Majella O'Neill	
John Akers	BDFM	
Claire Pearce	Divorce Manager - BCC	
Janine Hall	Admin Manager - BCC	
Cathy Price	Price Mistry	
Mark Mansell	St Philips Chambers	

**Guest**

Dean Parnell	Sydney Mitchell	Law Society President 2010/11
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1. **APOLOGIES**

Lorraine Bayliss; Martin Canning, Philip Barnsley, Stephanie Brown, Zahra Pabani

2. **ATTENDANCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY**

MDK introduced Dean Parnell as the incoming President of the Birmingham Law Society. MDK congratulated Dean Parnell on his appointment and explained that he is keen to see how each Committee operates.

3. **NEW JOINERS**

It is hoped that Sue Casey from Birmingham Family Proceedings Court and Fiona McCourt who manages the Birmingham Family Proceedings Court Legal Advisors will be able to join.

4. **SEMINAR**

At the previous meeting, it was discussed that it would be helpful to host a Seminar/discussion about the use of mediation in the Family Proceedings Court, the use of mediation as an early intervention and the role of CAFCASS and mediation. It was proposed and agreed that a Seminar/Discussion take place on 22 July 2010. It will be free and will be held at Martineau. It may attract CPD points. The aim of the Seminar will be to find a solution to try and help parties settle disputes using the best of the resources available.

5. **FDR AND FINAL HEARINGS BEING PLACED ON A STANDARD/SPECIALIST LIST**

There are no issues with regard to listing of FDR and Final Hearings.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF VALUER/EXPERTS**

Parties should agree experts before a First Appointment and if difficulties arise thereafter, the issue should be referred back to the Court.

7. **BIRMINGHAM FAMILY GROUP**

There will be another meeting in June. Marc Saunderson will circulate the date in due course.

8. **NEW COURT FAX NUMBERS**

Practitioners must now use the new fax numbers as provided by the Court.

The email accounts at Birmingham County Court including the family one are monitored as a minimum of once per day, more often than not several times a day. There is no problem emailing into this account if the rules permit it.

9. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

At each meeting it is proposed that a separate representative from the family law sector will do a brief talk and feedback on their practice area i.e. the view of a Barrister, Judge etc

7. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 13 July 2010 at 5.30pm.