



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

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

202-626-3463  
FAX 202-626-3453  
[www.dcbbar.org/sections](http://www.dcbbar.org/sections)

*Sections EventLine*  
202-626-3455

*Steering Committee*  
Robert C. Liotta, Co-Chair  
Margaret J. McKinney,  
Co-Chair  
Linda A. Delaney  
Garrett L. Lee  
Nancy A. Lopez  
Kala Shah Surprenant  
Dawn A. Wilson

Nancy Duff Campbell  
*Board of Governors Liaison*

*Committees*  
Community Outreach  
Education and Court Rules  
Letter  
Programs

John W. Niels, Jr.  
*D.C. Bar President*

John A. Payton  
*D.C. Bar President-elect*

John D. Graubert  
*Chair, Council on Sections*

John P. Mahoney  
*Vice Chair, Council on Sections*

Katherine A. Mazzaferrri  
*D.C. Bar Executive Director*

Cynthia D. Hill  
*D.C. Bar Assistant Executive  
Director, Programs*

Charles E. Lorenzetti  
*D.C. Bar Assistant Executive  
Director, Administration  
and Finance*

Carol Ann Cunningham  
*D.C. Bar Sections Manager*

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE FAMILY LAW SECTION OF THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA BAR IN SUPPORT OF “SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA: FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT REFORM”**

May 3, 2001

The Family Law Section enthusiastically supports the reforms set forth by Chief Judge King in the “Superior Court of the District of Columbia: Family Case Management Reform” (hereinafter “Family Case Management Reform”). The Family Case Management Reform was crafted after consultation with nationally recognized experts specializing in the improvement of court services to families and children, and with judicial officers from jurisdictions with successful family courts or family divisions. The Family Law Section believes the Family Case Management Reform sets forth a comprehensive, detailed and appropriate reformation plan for improving and expanding the Family Division of the Superior Court in its totality, and specifically, for improving the timely management of child abuse and neglect cases. Moreover, the Family Case Management Reform addresses each previously articulated concern raised by members of Congress and child advocates. Specifically, the Family Case Management Reform provides for longer tenures in the Family Division (3 years), voluntary assignment to the Division, specialized training, more judges on the abuse and neglect calendar, a team approach to management of abuse and neglect cases, the appointment of special magistrates, increased staffing, improved facilities, better case coordination and tracking, and expanded mediation services.

The Family Law Section supports the new leadership of the Superior Court and believes the new leadership should be given the opportunity to implement its reform plan. Chief Judge King, along with the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, the Deputy Presiding Judge and other judges of the Court have worked with experts, members of the bar, court personnel and others to examine the issues and to create a reform plan that is specially tailored to the needs of this community. The reforms proposed in the Family Case Management Reform include many practices and procedures used in successful courts around the country. The Family Law Section believes the Family Case Management Reform provides a much better solution to the District’s problems than the establishment of a separate family court.

For the reasons set forth above and those set forth in our previous statement, the Family Law Section does not support the establishment of a separate “Family Court” in the District of Columbia.

The views expressed herein represent only those of the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar (“Family Law Section”) and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors.