

FAMILY LAW SECTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON PROPOSED JOINT CUSTODY LEGISLATION

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE FAMILY LAW SECTION:

Diane M. Brenneman, Cochair *
Stacy L. Brustin, Cochair
Jonathan M. Dana
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** precluded by NLS regulations from participating in formulation of legislative recommendation

The Family Law Section sponsored two public discussion sessions regarding Bill #10-422, The Joint Custody of Children Amendment Act of 1993. The sessions were well attended by Family Law section members and other D.C. bar members on January 26, 1994 and February 9, 1994. After hearing from the section members, the steering committee determined that, given the diversity of responses, that it would be inappropriate for the Family Law section to issue a blanket endorsement for or blanket opposition to the bill. Rather, the steering committee decided the following by consensus:

1. That it would be inappropriate to create through statute a presumption in favor of one type of custodial arrangement over another because it would unnecessarily restrict a judicial officer's ability to tailor a remedy to provide for the best interests of the children involved;

2. To provide information to the City Council regarding the issues raised in the two sessions of family law practitioners and to offer to serve as a resource to the Council for further research it might deem appropriate.