

FORENSIC CUSTODY EXPERTS AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By: **Christopher Rade Musulin, Esquire, Chair., Custody/Visitation/Support Sub-Committee**

In March of 1998, I had the privilege of serving on a committee established by the Burlington County Bar Association Family Law Bench/Bar Committee to review and update the list of court appointed experts for purposes of custody evaluations. Christopher R. Stockton, Esquire, Karen L. Amacker, Esquire, Susan R. Dargay, Esquire, Patrick Judge Jr., Esquire, Diane Talty, MSW, Andrew Musetto, PhD and other individuals spent the better part of a year and a half interviewing different experts and investigating the process of custody evaluators, the CAN program, parenting coordinators and other professional services related to family law matters. We ultimately prepared a report including a list of approved custody experts, protocol for engagement as forensic custody experts, standards for the CAN, standards for risk assessments and other criteria.

As the Chair of the Custody and Visitation Sub-Committee, I am organizing a committee to review the custody experts list as well as the work of our prior committee to update and improve our previous efforts. I am seeking all comments from members of the Bar concerning this particular endeavor. My e-mail address is cmusulin@sjsersseylawyer.com. I request that all interested individuals provide their commentary within the following thirty days.

I would also greatly appreciate the names, addresses and phone numbers of those psychologists, MSW's, clinicians, or other qualified individuals with regard to forensic custody evaluations, custody neutral assessments, risk assessments, parenting coordinator services and other related professions.

It is our intention to create a new list of court appointed custody experts, review the existing custody and parenting time mediation program, review the existing CNA program, review the parenting coordinator program and also explore various ancillary and complimentary professional services.

I look forward to receiving your emails. After receiving the emails, I anticipate scheduling a meeting of the membership of the custody/visitation/support sub-committee for purposes of reviewing the commentary of the bar and commencing the process of scheduling professionals for interviews.

TOUR THE EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY, OCT. 22ND

The Young Lawyers Division of the BCBA is sponsoring a tour of the Eastern State Penitentiary on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 2:00PM.

Some of the most notorious criminals were held in the Penitentiary's vaulted, sky-lit cells including Willie Sutton and Al Capone. The prison was opened in 1829 and quickly became one of the most expensive and most copied buildings in the U.S. After 142 years of consecutive use, it was completely abandoned in 1971.

A reservation form is enclosed in this issue of The Straight Word, including costs. Please respond by October 18, 2005.