



### **Committee Corner – Domestic Violence Committee**

Members of the Domestic Violence Committee are putting together an excellent session now scheduled for the section's Spring CLE Conference in Washington, D.C., on May 4, 2006. The speaker will be professor Nathan A. Fox, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development at the University of Maryland. Fox is a member of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, a multi-disciplinary group of leading scientists in the fields of early childhood and early brain development, all of them professors, from around the nation.

This CLE session produced by the committee will focus on how a child's exposure to domestic violence, irrespective of whether or not the child is actually physically abused, is harmful to the child and may even cause changes in architecture of the child's brain.

Committee leaders hope to see lots of committee members at the meeting during the Spring CLE in Washington, which will be at the Renaissance Hotel May 3-6, 2006. The committee needs members' assistance in development of such topics as standards of practice for family lawyers with regard to clients who are domestic violence survivors as well as continued work in other areas affecting lawyers working with survivors' families.

During 2005, the Domestic Violence Committee turned its focus toward standards of practice for family lawyers in DV cases and the effects on children exposed to domestic violence.

At the 2005 Fall CLE in San Diego, the committee had its lunch meeting at the San Diego Family Justice Center, a one-stop center for domestic violence victims and their children. The center's staff made a presentation to the committee about the structure, operation and development of the center, which is a model for development of other similar operations around the country, now largely under a federal grant program.

As a committee, we are always happy to work with other committees to produce programs where domestic violence concerns overlap with traditional family law issues, such as taxation, ethics, military matters, relocation of children, immigration, etc., and we are especially happy to welcome new members to our meetings and our listserve.

Jean Crowe, chair; Allen Bailey, co-vice chair, and Donna Davis Green, co-vice chair

If you would like to join the Domestic Violence Committee, or one of the Section's 22 other substantive committees, please visit [www.abanet.org/family/committees](http://www.abanet.org/family/committees).