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It was standing-room only at the first Family Law Section meeting of 2008, held at the Louisville Bar Association on January 29th. As our first topic to kick off the new year, our members discussed upcoming CLE's for the year. The Annual Domestic Relations Update will occur on March 14th and will be presented by Diana L. Skaggs and Judge Richard Revell. In coordination with the LBA, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers will present a two-day CLE on April 17th and 18th: "Mastering the Tough Issues: Child Custody, Divorce Taxation, QDRO's, and Preparing for the Difficult Mediation." On April 25th, Chip Bowles will speak and lead a panel of attorneys and judges knowledgeable in both bankruptcy and family law for "Bankruptcy Law for Family Law Attorneys: How to protect your Clients and Yourselfes." The Annual Nuts and Bolts of Family Law has been scheduled for June 13th. Our members discussed tweaking this presentation somewhat, to possibly address such topics as comparisons between EPO/DVO cases and DNA cases, new approaches and laws in paternity and custody cases, and proper use of child support worksheets and Mandatory Case Disclosure forms. The members also suggested "cohabitating couples," whether heterosexual or homosexual, as a general topic for a CLE. Any attorney, judge or financial or mental health professional interested in speaking about any of these topics or the basics of family law should please contact Michelle Eisenmenger Mapes, Diana L. Skaggs + Associates, (502) 562-0050, Mapes@LouisvilleDivorce.com; or Louis Winner, Seiller Waterman LLC, (502) 584-7400, winner@derbycitylaw.com. Finally, although these and other CLE's have already been scheduled, additional topics and speakers for additional CLE's are welcome.

Janet Sonner from the Center for Women and Families was present to discuss options for the Family Law Section to provide support for the Center in 2008 as part of its Public Service Project. Janet discussed several drives the Center will hold throughout the year, including a current blanket and sheet drive, a Halloween costume drive, and a gift card drive for the holidays. More information and details regarding how you can support the Center as part of the Family Law Section's public service project will be disseminated soon.

Chief Judge Patricia Walker Fitzgerald spoke to the section about some changes happening at Family Court and in the law. She noted that the Model Relocation Act had been introduced to the Kentucky legislature and those interested in seeing the bill passed should contact their representatives. She noted that more court documentation may be translated into Spanish in the future. Judge Fitzgerald and Judge Stephen George spoke regarding the limitation on GAL fees as well as the budget crunch for the courts overall and how this could affect the family lawyers' practices; they also noted that there was no push in the legislature for an equal parenting child support table or to make the current chart go higher.

The next Family Law Section meeting will occur on May 6, 2008 at the LBA. An invitation has been extended for one or more of the family court judges to speak. We also welcome the opportunity to discuss new and important cases or any other issues. Please feel free to call

or email Michelle Eisenmenger Mapes or Louis Winner with your thoughts (contact information above.)

Michelle Eisenmenger Mapes, Diana L. Skaggs + Associates, is Chair of the Louisville Bar Association Family Law Section.