

CLA Family Law Committee

Terms of Reference

Mission Statement

“The Family Law Committee’s mission is to enable CLA members and others to share family law legislative options, practices and experiences, including ways to advance equitable outcomes arising from relationship breakdown. In so doing, the Committee will promote legislative change which recognizes the effect of family violence in all its forms, the breadth in the composition of family units, less conflictual, more family-centred dispute resolution and cross border collaboration regarding the protection of property and children. The Committee will exchange views and knowledge, develop policy positions, and undertake special projects to implement its mission.”

Other guiding principles/aims

The Family Law Committee’s work will:

- Implement the CLA’s Diversity & Inclusion policy
- Champion CLA for membership growth by enhancing the CLA’s value offering

Activities

Exchange views and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, training and articles to generate discussion on rights and obligations regarding the definition of the family, and legislative and procedural reform recognizing the effect of family violence and enhancing alternative dispute resolution options • Partnering with Commonwealth Secretariat to develop materials and programs promoting the positive effect of implementing equitable legislation and procedural reform which takes into account the special nature of family law • Partner and collaborate with other recognised international family law organizations and family dispute resolution bodies in regions to foster connections and share information • Make speaker recommendations to the CLC Papers Committee
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute Newsletter and journal articles
<i>Developing policy positions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies and protocols for legislative and procedural reform and dispute resolution options in family law for endorsement by CLA Council
<i>Undertaking special projects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise Commonwealth Conference family topics/panels • Assist in providing research and options which promote legislative and procedural change, including training for practitioners in recognizing family violence and its effect, and in considering alternative dispute resolution options using experienced trainers • Develop templates for creative family-centred dispute resolution options for use by parties and their lawyers in agreements • Collaborate with the ADR Committee on best practices for the resolution of family disputes • Provide capacity to the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist its development of family law policies

Membership

- Initial membership from Council, ExCo and YCLA
- Co-option of other members who can contribute specialist expertise or other advantages
- All Members are required to be in good standing with CLA unless they represent a partner organisation (ie. NGO and Commonwealth accredited organisation partners, or non lawyers)

Possible Partnerships

- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Legal professional bodies such as

Administration

- A secretary to be appointed who will be responsible for meeting arrangements and minute taking and to report to the plenary Committee on the Committee activities and be the point of contact to liaise with the Secretariat for diary planning, record keeping and circulation of documents.
- Meetings will be held initially each month until established and then every 2 months
- Reporting lines
 - The Committee to report to the Secretariat

- To ExCo – brief verbal report with advance notification if specific Agenda time requested and with documents for circulation to be provided to the Secretariat the week before the ExCo meeting.
 - To Council – a brief written summary of activity and any relevant reports for circulation to be with the Secretariat 2 weeks before the Council meeting. Requests for substantial agenda time at Council to be requested at least 2 weeks in advance.
 - General Meeting – a written report of activity for the CLA membership. To be received no later than one month before the CLC
- For webinars and in-person events: the Committee members are required to identify their target audience, speakers and propose a Budget to disclose any financial exposure for the CLA, potential earnings for CLA and details of promotional or other requirements and the call upon the Secretariat's time. A Committee member will be identified to work with the Secretariat who will assist with scheduling (to coordinate with activities of other CLA Hubs and Committees) hosting on Zoom and marketing. Submission of all data (dates, times, speakers' bios etc) must be submitted at least 8 weeks prior to the event to give time for successful marketing strategies.