

**Supreme Court of Texas  
Uniform Forms Task Force**

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January 11, 2012

RECEIVED  
IN SUPREME COURT  
OF TEXAS

JAN 11 2012

BLAKE HAWTHORNE, Clerk  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

Mr. Stewart W.  
Gagnon  
Chair

Hon. Tracy  
Gilbert

Hon. Diane M.  
Guariglia

Mr. Casey  
Kennedy

Ms. Cristy Keul

Hon. Marilea  
Lewis

Ms. Karen Miller

Mr. Stephen  
Naylor

Ms. Lisa Rush

Mr. Ed Wells

Hon. Sheri  
Woodfin

Mr. Michael  
Wyatt

The Supreme Court of Texas  
Attn: Mr. Blake Hawthorne  
Supreme Court Building  
201 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 104  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Re: Report to the Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 11-9046**

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas:

On behalf of the Supreme Court Uniform Forms Task Force ("Task Force"), I am providing this report to the Supreme Court summarizing the activities of the Task Force for the period of September 1, 2011 through January 6, 2012. In addition to this written report, Task Force members are available to meet with the Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas to discuss the activities or to answer any questions.

***Background***

On March 15, 2011, the Court entered an order establishing the Uniform Forms Task Force, appointing members, and outlining five tasks:

- Monitor local efforts to create, amend, or modify forms and incorporate local efforts within the Task Force's purview;
- Evaluate best practices for the creation and distribution of the forms;
- Consult with and seek input from stakeholders including the Texas Access to Justice Commission, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and legal services providers;
- Draft an implementation plan that identifies legal areas that would benefit from the availability of uniform pleadings and order forms and that will make the forms readily available; and
- Develop proposed models of uniform pleading and order forms to be evaluated and approved by the Court for statewide use.

The Task Force determined that family law, specifically divorce, was the greatest area of need for those who cannot afford, and otherwise do not have access to, an attorney and the area in which uniform forms would be of most benefit. The Task Force has now completed a kit for an uncontested divorce with no children and no real property. This report will describe the progress and challenges of the Task Force, present the kit, and suggest recommendations for making the kit accessible. Minutes from each Task Force meeting and the draft kit are attached to this report as exhibits.

The Task Force includes the following members from across the state:

- Mr. Stewart Gagnon, Chair, Fulbright & Jaworski, Houston
- Hon. Tracy Gilbert, Judge, 418<sup>th</sup> District Court, Conroe
- Hon. Diane M. Guariglia, Associate Judge, 245<sup>th</sup> District Court, Houston
- Mr. Casey Kennedy, Supreme Court of Texas, Austin
- Ms. Cristy Keul, Smith County Bar Association, Tyler
- Hon. Marilea Lewis, Marilea W. Lewis, P.C., Dallas
- Ms. Karen Miller, Texas Legal Services Center, Austin
- Mr. Stephen Naylor, Law Offices of Stephen J. Naylor, PLLC, Ft. Worth
- Ms. Lisa Rush, Travis County Law Library, Austin
- Mr. Ed Wells, Harris County Office of Court Management, Houston
- Hon. Sheri Woodfin, District Clerk, Tom Green County, San Angelo
- Mr. Michael Wyatt, Office of El Paso County Attorney, El Paso

Hon. Phylis J. Speedlin was appointed to the Task Force by the Court but has since resigned. The Task Force receives staffing and support from the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

### ***Uniform Forms Development***

At its first meeting on March 18, 2011, the Task Force began developing a plan to complete its assignments. It identified several areas of law that would benefit from uniform pleading and forms, such as family law, landlord-tenant, name change, guardianships, and simple estate planning. It then reviewed data from several sources, including

- Statistics on the most widely used forms on TexasLawHelp.org, a state-wide legal information and help website;
- Data and resources available from the Travis County Self Help Center;
- Input from Task Force members regarding self represented litigant demand for services in their own communities; and
- Data on demand for services at local legal aid providers.

Based on this information, the Task Force concluded that family law forms, specifically divorce forms, would be the most useful place to start its work.

The Task Force decided to focus its efforts on a basic set of forms for a simple uncontested divorce with no children and no real property. This divorce kit includes instructions, an original petition for divorce, an affidavit of indigency, a waiver of service, an answer, a notice of change of address, a certificate of last known mailing address, a military status affidavit, and a final decree of divorce.

The group further identified its task as standardizing forms to be available for people with limited financial means who cannot afford legal representation and who would not otherwise have access to the courts. Members agreed that all documents must be legally sound but easily used by self represented litigants, meaning short and simple forms with step-by-step instructions on their completion. The Task Force seeks to model the usability of its forms and instructions on those previously developed by this Court's Protective Order Task Force.

Subsequent to the first meeting, the Task Force met an additional seven times: April 21, 2001, June 3, 2011, July 15, 2011, October 7, 2011, November 9, 2011, December 2, 2011 and January 6, 2012. During this time, the Task Force carefully reviewed applicable sections of the Texas Family Code to ensure that the forms included necessary statutory language. In addition, Task Force members have researched forms and processes used in other jurisdictions across the country. The proposed forms have been repeatedly reviewed and revised by members of the Task Force to ensure compliance with existing law and clarity of meaning for the average self represented litigant. No member of the Task Force objected to forwarding the attached set of forms as the Divorce No Children, No Property kit to the Court.

### ***Involvement of Family Law Bar***

As you are aware, the Supreme Court Uniform Forms Task Force arose out of the Self Represented Litigants Forum held in Dallas, Texas in April 2010. The development of standardized forms was identified at the Forum as the most useful next step in assisting self represented litigants. The leadership of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas was invited to attend that Forum although only a few members chose to attend.

The Task Force membership is intentionally comprised of a large cross-section of interested parties to get the broadest input, including three family law lawyers and two judges who preside over family law cases. Shortly after the initial meeting of the Task Force, Stewart Gagnon contacted the Family Law Section leadership and offered to meet with them to discuss the work of the Task Force and seek any input that the group might have. This request went unanswered.

Stewart Gagnon also made presentations on the work of the Task Force to several groups of judges and local bar leaders, particularly within the family bar, to get additional feedback and address any possible concerns.

The leadership of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas indicated concerns with, and objections to, the work of the Task Force in late July. A formal meeting to discuss and address the concerns of the Family Law Section was held on September 2, 2011. The following were in attendance:

- Tom Ausley, Chair for the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- Charlie Hodges, Past Chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- Honorable Judy Warne, Harris County District Judge
- Brian Webb, Tarrant County family law attorney and member of the Family Law Section Council
- Stewart Gagnon, Chair of the Uniform Forms Task Force

- Harry Reasoner, Chair of the Texas Access to Justice Commission
- Honorable Lora Livingston, Travis County District Judge
- Trish McAllister, Executive Director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

The leadership of the Family Law Section articulated concerns that uniform forms:

- Uniform forms will negatively impact the ability of family law lawyers to earn a living;
- Uniform forms will harm the public; and
- The promulgation and approval of forms by the Supreme Court of Texas sends the public a false message that family law is a do-it-yourself practice area and that the forms obviate the need for a lawyer.

In response, we clarified that the forms were for uncontested matters and were directed at low income people. We noted that forms have been available online in Texas for more than ten years. We provided information on the growing poverty population in Texas and on the 47 states that have implemented uniform forms without the negative impact they anticipate. Finally, we again invited them to participate in the development of the forms and in all other self-represented litigant efforts. Unfortunately, the meeting did not lead to a resolution.

### ***Distribution Plan***

The Task Force plans on distributing the kit in electronic format via TexasLawHelp and via links on other websites to TexasLawHelp, to minimize cost and maximize statewide availability of the .

### **Expenses of Task Force**

The Task Force has incurred costs of \$6,558.13 to date. The Texas Access to Justice Commission paid all costs.

### ***Next Steps***

The Task Force will next turn to creating a similar set of forms for use in divorces involving minor children. The preparation of these forms will involve the same rigorous review as did the previous set.

### ***Attachments***

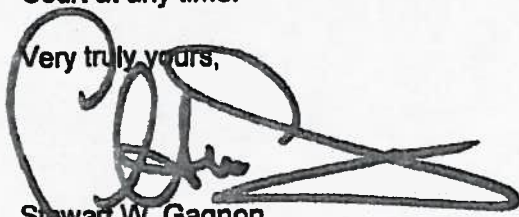
The following documents are attached as part of this report:

1. The Court's March 15, 2011 Order Establishing Uniform Forms Task Force
2. Minutes from all of the Task Force meetings
3. The No Minor Children, No Real Property Divorce Kit, comprised of eight forms and instructions, including an Affidavit of Indigency, an Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent's Answer to Divorce, a Waiver of Service, a Final Decree of Divorce, a Certificate of Last Known Address, a Notice of Change of Address form, a Military Status Affidavit

### ***Summary***

On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to thank the Court for its support of this project. We look forward to continuing the work of the Task Force and, as always, are available to the Court at any time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stewart W. Gagnon', written over the closing 'yours,'.

Stewart W. Gagnon  
Chair

### **Attachments**



# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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Misc. Docket No. 11-9046

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## ORDER CREATING UNIFORM FORMS TASK FORCE

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The Texas Access to Justice Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Court Administration, the Texas Legal Services Center, and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, hosted the Texas Forum on Self-Represented Litigants and the Courts in Dallas on April 8-9, 2010. Over 120 attendees, including members of the judiciary, legal services attorneys, court clerks and administrators, and law librarians participated.

Participants at the Forum considered the impact pro se litigants have on the court system and evaluated tools to enable the courts to help pro se litigants navigate the legal system and to improve court efficiencies. An issue that arose consistently throughout the Forum was the need for statewide standardized forms for pleadings frequently used by pro se litigants.

The legal system functions most effectively when each litigant is represented by an attorney. But there are currently insufficient resources to meet the continually growing demand for civil legal aid. As a result, an increasing number of litigants will appear in courts pro se because they cannot afford an attorney and are unable to secure representation from legal aid.

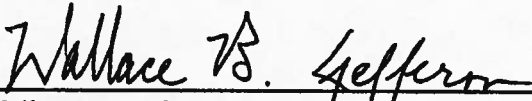
The Court is concerned about the accessibility of the court system to Texans who are unable to afford legal representation. After consultation with the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Access to Justice Commission, the Court agrees that developing pleading and order forms approved by the Court for statewide use would increase access to justice and reduce the strain on courts posed by pro se litigants.

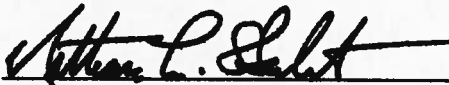
Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Supreme Court Uniform Forms Task Force is created to:
  - a. monitor local efforts to create, amend, or modify forms and incorporate local efforts within the Task Force's purview;
  - b. evaluate best practices for the creation and distribution of forms;
  - c. consult with and seek input from stakeholders including the Texas Access to Justice Commission, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and legal services providers;
  - d. draft an implementation plan that will identify legal areas that would benefit from the availability of uniform pleading and order forms and that will make the forms readily available;
  - e. develop proposed models of uniform pleading and order forms to be evaluated and approved by the Court for statewide use.
2. The members of the Task Force shall represent, at a minimum, the judiciary, the private bar, legal services attorneys, court clerks and administrators, and law librarians.
3. The following members are appointed:

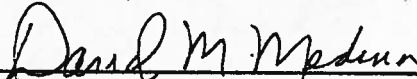
Stewart Gagnon, Houston	Steve Naylor, Fort Worth
Hon. Tracy Gilbert, Conroe	Lisa Rush, Austin
Hon. Diane M. Guariglia, Houston	Hon. Phylis J. Speedlin, San Antonio
Casey Kennedy, Austin	Ed Wells, Houston
Cristy Keul, Tyler	Sheri Woodfin, San Angelo
Hon. Marilea Lewis, Dallas	Michael Wyatt, El Paso
Karen Miller, Austin	
4. The Task Force will deliver minutes of its meetings to the Court and report to the Court by September 1, 2011, on progress made and challenges faced, efforts underway to develop forms throughout the state and steps taken to incorporate those efforts into the Task Force's charge, forms that have been completed, documents to be developed and a schedule for creation of those documents, and best practices for use with statewide forms.
5. Justice Hecht is designated the Court's liaison to the Task Force.

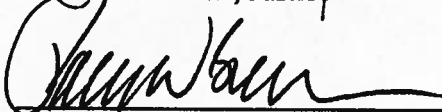
Dated: March 15, 2011

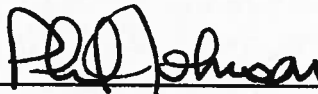
  
Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

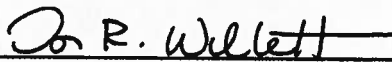
  
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

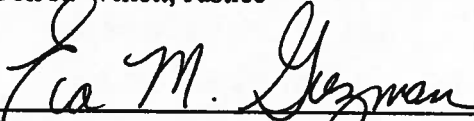
  
Dale Wainwright, Justice

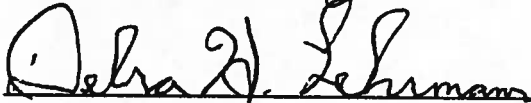
  
David M. Medina, Justice

  
Paul W. Green, Justice

  
Phil Johnson, Justice

  
Don R. Willett, Justice

  
Eva M. Guzman, Justice

  
Debra H. Lehmann, Justice



**SCOT UNIFORM FORMS TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**MARCH 18, 2011 – 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**  
**TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION, ROOM 410 – AUSTIN, TEXAS**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Stewart Gagnon (Committee Chair), Tracy Gilbert, Hon. Diane Guariglia, Casey Kennedy, Cristy Keul, Trish McAllister (staff), Hon. Steve Naylor, Lisa Rush, Justice Nathan Hecht (guest)

By phone: Marilea Lewis, Ed Wells, Michael Wyatt

**1. Welcome (Stewart Gagnon)**

Stewart welcomed committee members. Each member introduced themselves to the rest of the committee.

**2. Purpose and Charge of Uniform Forms Task Force: (Stewart Gagnon)**

Stewart gave a brief history of the Self Represented Litigants Committee and how the Uniform Form Task Force arose out of a meeting on self represented litigants held in Dallas in April 2010. At that meeting, it was determined that forms were the highest priority. The Supreme Court of Texas subsequently drafted an order to create the Uniform Forms Task Force. The Court has approved the Order, however, it has not yet formally been signed by all Justices.

**3. Action Plan:**

**a. Prioritizing Forms**

Lisa Rush reviewed the data available through TexasLawHelp.org and the Travis County Self Help Center that was provided in the packet to the committee. Based on that information as well as input from members as to what is happening in their own community, the committee brainstormed as what forms would be most useful. Family law, estate planning (simple wills) and probate (affidavits of heirship) were among those discussed. After further discussion, it was decided that the committee would focus on the following family law forms: original petition for divorce, waiver, answer, pauper's affidavit, certificate of last known address, a soldiers and sailors affidavit, a final decree of divorce and a name change form. The committee will first work on the waiver, answer, pauper's affidavit, certificate of last known address, and soldiers and sailors affidavit forms and next work on the petition and decree. The initial forms will be for a divorce without children and followed by forms for a divorce with children. Lisa will get the divorce forms from TexasLawHelp, and Stewart will get the pauper's oath, to the committee for review.

**Action Item:** The committee is to review the forms and come to the next meeting prepared to edit them into pleadings that can serve as statewide forms.

b. Forms Format

The committee discussed what format the forms should take and asked for Justice Hecht's input. Justice Hecht stated that check boxes would be fine; that English with Spanish underneath in italics would be fine as long as the forms were not solely in Spanish; that instructions within the form is fine as were the instructions for the PO forms; and that question format would also be fine. The committee continued discussing format. It was decided that a question format may not be the best format for our first forms. It was further decided that we get the forms developed first and determine formatting at a later date. The use of focus groups or other means of testing the forms for readability and ease of use was also discussed as was the possibility of seeking funding from the Texas Bar Foundation for translation or formatting. Stewart stated that the formatting and translating of the PO form was outsourced and not done by the committee tasked with preparing the forms.

**Action Item:** Trish is to determine who formatted, and who translated, the PO forms approved by the Court.

4. New Business: None
5. Next Meeting: The Committee will meet on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:30 – 4:30 pm at a location to be determined.
6. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned.

**SCOT Uniform Forms Task Force Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2011  
MINUTES**

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**Present: Stewart Gagnon (chair), Judge Tracy Gilbert, Judge Diane Guariglia, Cristy Keul, Judge Marilea Lewis, Trish McAllister, Karen Miller, Lisa Rush, Hannah Silk Kapasi, Justice Phylis Speedlin (phone), Sheri Woodfin, Michael Wyatt (phone)**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Gagnon called the meeting to order and asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

**II. Review drafting of prioritized forms and discussion**

General items of discussion regarding the forms discussed during the committee meeting are made in these minutes. All proposed changes to the forms are located on the form directly, attached to these minutes.

The forms reviewed and discussed during this meeting were:

- 1) Certificate of Last Known Mailing Address
- 2) Waiver of Service – Divorce Case
- 3) Petition for Divorce
- 4) Respondent's Answer to Divorce

The committee agreed that if an entire "Divorce, No Children" packet is assembled, then the every form in the packet should say, "no children," including the certificate of last known mailing address.

On all forms, the Case Number should be at the top middle, with a blank space in the right corner for clerk to stamp. Some forms say "case number" and some say "cause number," they should all say "cause number."

Interpretive language needs to be consistent throughout the documents; some of the Spanish is not consistent between the forms.

The last 3 digits of the social security number must be place on every initial pleading filed in the court, including the petition, answer, and waiver.

There was a great deal of discussion on the issue of objections to an associate judge. There was consensus to put this in instructions, not on the form.

There was also discussion that the Committee needs to put together a pack on out of county/out of state service.

**III. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

# **Uniform Forms Task Force**

## **Minutes June 3, 2011**

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**Present:** Stewart Gagnon (chair), Judge Tracy Gilbert, Judge Diane Guariglia, Casey Kennedy, Cristy Keul, Trish McAllister, Karen Miller, Steve Naylor, Lisa Rush, Hannah Silk Kapasi, Michael Wyatt (phone)

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Gagnon called the meeting to order and welcomed Task Force members.

### **II. Approval of minutes**

Minutes from April 21 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **III. Philosophy of divorce decree – what to include**

The Task Force members had an extensive discussion involving whether to include division of property on the divorce forms. Some members felt that including property disputes on a simple divorce form would lead to more problems in the long run for the parties. These members felt that property divisions are not suitable for a “one size fits all” model. Other members believed that too many pro se litigants would be left unassisted if property divisions were not included on the forms.

No consensus was reached on the issue of whether to include property issues on the forms, but the Task Force members generally agreed to research the following in order to aid their decision making:

- 1) What is the norm regarding division of property in SRL forms in other states? (Silk Kapasi will research)
- 2) How much is division of property an issue in SRL divorces? (Silk Kapasi will research)
- 3) Is there a case that states that litigants do not need to plea separate property? (Naylor will research)

### **IV. Review drafting of prioritized forms and discussion**

The Committee continued to review and draft divorce forms. This meeting focused on the following forms (see attached):

- 1) Divorce, No Children - Petition
- 2) Divorce, No Children - Waiver
- 3) Divorce, No Children - Answer
- 4) Divorce, No Children –Certificate of last known mailing address
- 5) Divorce, No Children – Affidavit of Military Status

**V. Affidavit of inability to pay costs**

McAllister distributed four sample affidavit of inability to pay costs. She reported that the Rules Subcommittee will be working on expanding Rule 145(c) to include an automatic fee waiver for individuals on defined government benefits programs. She suggested that the Forms Task Force to begin to create a model Affidavit Inability to Pay Costs. The Task Force will review the samples she distributed and discuss more fully at the next Task Force meeting.

**VI. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held July 15 at 10:00 a.m.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting is adjourned.



**SCOT Uniform Forms Task Force Meeting  
July 15, 2011  
MINUTES**

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**Present: Stewart Gagnon, Trish McAllister, Lisa Rush, Tracy Gilbert, Justice Phylis Speedlin, Karen Miller, Steve Naylor, Melissa Cook, Hannah Silk Kapasi**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Gagnon called the meeting to order and welcomed Task Force members.**

**II. Approval of minutes**

**The Task Force unanimously approved meeting minutes from April 21, 2011.**

**III. Philosophy of divorce decree – what to include**

**The Task Force formed a consensus to not include retirement plans in the form divorce decree. Gagnon recommended that the Task Force prepare two sets of forms, one with property and one without property and give it to the SCOT rules committee to decide which set to moved forward on. Gagnon stated that if property is included, the Task Force will also need to prepare the following forms:**

**Special warranty deed**

**Assignment of insurance**

**Assignment of utilities deposits**

**Deed of trust of secured assumption (there is a real estate form)**

**Escrow**

**IV. Review drafting of prioritized forms and discussion**

**The Task Force reviewed drafts again. Attached are the forms with the changes the Task Force made during this meeting.**

**The Task Force also began discussing the Standard Possession Order and acknowledged that this discussion would continue when the Task Force began delving more deeply into the "Divorce with Children" forms.**

**V. Affidavit of inability to pay costs**

The Task Force discussed the format the Affidavit(s) of Indigency should take. They briefly discussed creating two forms, one which would require proof of public benefits, one that would be for people not on public benefits but who believe they cannot pay court costs.

The Task Force members generally did not like the idea of two separate forms and decided to first create an Affidavit of Indigency for recipients of means-tested government benefits program. Other potential claims of indigency would be addressed in the future.

**VI. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date was set for September 2, 2011.

**VII. Adjourn**

SCOT Uniform Forms Task Force Meeting  
Friday, October 7, 2011  
MINUTES

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Present: Stewart Gagnon (chair), Judge Tracy Gilbert, Cristy Keul, Judge Marilea Lewis, Trish McAllister, Karen Miller, Lisa Rush, Hannah Silk Kapasi, Sheri Woodfin (phone), Steve Naylor

Guests Present: Brian Webb, Charlie Hodges, Steve Bresnen, Judge Judy Warne

I. Welcome and Introductions

Gagnon called the meeting to order and asked the guests and all Task Force members to introduce themselves.

Gagnon asked the guests to give a short presentation before the Task Force turned to its business. Members of the Family Bar Section and the Family Law Foundation expressed their opposition to the promulgation of forms to be approved by the Supreme Court.

Gagnon thanked them for their comments and stated that the work of this Task Force was being done at the behest of the Supreme Court of Texas. He asked the guests present to share any specific comments and feedback that they had on the forms with the Task Force and the Court. The guests responded by staying that they are not interested in helping improve the forms; they are working towards putting an end to the forms project altogether. Gagnon reminded the guests that the Task Force members are present at the direction of the Court and the Task Force has representation on both sides. Gagnon left an open invitation to have the guests present give any feedback on improvement of the forms.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments.

III. Review drafting of prioritized forms and discussion

The Task Force first discussed the warning language at the top of each of the forms. The members decided to change "remember" to stronger language, such as "WARNING." The members came up with the following language to be used as a warning on all forms:

"WARNING: Without the advice and help of an attorney, you may be putting yourself, children, property and money at risk. To get a referral to an attorney, call the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Information Service at 1-800-252-9690 Use bold and color."

The Task Force agreed to use the same warning on all versions of affidavit.

1. Affidavit of Indigency—

The Task Force turned to discussing the Affidavit of Indigency. The members discussed and decided to make the Affidavit a sworn document despite HB 3674 having passed.

The Task Force also discussed the usefulness of the Affidavit of Indigency in other contexts outside of divorce and considered making a general affidavit and warning and submit as another form along with the kit to the Court.

For suggested changes to the form, see attached Affidavit of Indigency.

**2. Military Status Affidavit—**

The Task Force discussed making the notary blocks the same on all forms. They had no other comments regarding the form.

**3. Certificate of last known mailing address—**

The Task Force discussed putting a place for the pro se litigant to put their address. After discussing the pros and cons of such a move, the group recommended creating a change of address form instead of putting the litigants' address here. No changes were made to the form.

**4. Original Petition No Kids and limited property—**

The Task Force discussed why the form stated "limited property." Gagnon explained it is called "limited" because we agreed that we would not include retirement benefits on this form and there are very limited options in separate assets. The Task Force decided to include a text box with clarification that the form does not include retirement benefits and other exclusions.

The Task Force again discussed the issue of real property. Gagnon stated that the Task Force needed to decide whether to submit a form with real property. He stated that the Court does not want the Task Force to submit two versions and let them decide. He suggested that the options regarding property to be the following:

- a. Allow real property only where the parties want to give the home to one spouse or the other. If not in agreement, or if they want to sell the home and split the proceeds, then they should not use this form. Include a statement that the litigant does not have to agree to a division of assets in this manner. Also include language strongly recommending consulting with an attorney.
- b. Don't include real property at all.

The Task Force agreed to have a draft of the decree where one party is awarded all the house and put in all of the warnings discussed in Option A (above) and the Task Force will review at the next meeting.

For suggested changes to the form, see attached Petition and Decree, No Kids Limited Property.

**5. Waiver**

Make sure the warning box takes out reference to TexasLawHelp, rather the form should direct them to the answer. The Task Force discussed adding additional warning language based on recent appellate decision regarding global waivers versus specific waivers. In the end, the Task Force decided to add language in the instructions to the petitioner that if s/he amends the petition, Respondent will have to sign a new Waiver. Also include language in the body that states, "I do not give up my right to review an amended or subsequent, a different, petition. "

**6. Answer**

For suggested changes to the form, see attached Answer.

**7. Decree**

The Task Force discussed adding the proposed strong warning language to real estate section. For additional suggested changes to the form, see attached Decree.

**8. Instructions—**

In the contested and uncontested section, add stronger language for uncontested, e.g. "you agree to EVERY ISSUE" and use it in the definition of contested (keep language consistent)

For additional suggested changes to the form, see attached instructions.

**IV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.