AMERICAN ACADEMY

AAML

OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

Connecticut Chapter

Protecting the Family. Improving the Practice.

Officers

President
Campbell D. Barrett
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103-3702
Tel.: (860) 424-4353
Fax: (860) 424-4370
Email: cbarrett@pullcom.com

President-Elect
Lee Marlow

Vice-President
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Frederic J. Siegel

October 15, 2019

Honorable Andrew J. McDonald
Chairman, Rules Committee of the Superior Court
P.O. Box 150474
Hartford, CT 06115-4074

RE: Connecticut Rules of Court Section 11-19

Dear Justice McDonald:

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) supports an amendment to Practice Book section 11-19 to require that trial courts render decisions on pendente lite issues within thirty days of the completion of a hearing. The early stages of a divorce case can be a period of high conflict. Parties are often deprived of access to children and financial support. Pendente lite orders provide stability and certainty to families going through this difficult process. It is well-settled that the purpose of pendente lite orders is to recreate the status quo that existed prior to the commencement of the action. This purpose is defeated if families are forced to wait months for the entry of a court order. The issues involved in pendente lite motions are often relatively straightforward and fit readily within a thirty day time frame.

The AAML is a national organization of approximately 1600 lawyers recognized as experts in the field of family law. The AAML was founded in 1962 to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards, and advance the cause of matrimonial law, with the goal of protecting the welfare of the family and society. The Connecticut Chapter is comprised of thirty (30) fellows.

Very truly yours,

Campbell D. Barrett
President, Connecticut Chapter