

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Date: January 20, 2018  
Place: Weber’s Inn, Ann Arbor**

**I. Administrative matters**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

The council was called to order by Kent Weichmann.

The following (18) council members were present: Sean Blume, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Jim Chryssikos, Matt Catchick, Mike Golematis Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Robert Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost-Johnson.

Council members absent: Peter Kulas-Dominguez, Jennifer Johnsen, Shon Cook.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Anne Argiroff, Barb Kelly, Rebecca Shiemke, Carlo Martina and Elizabeth Sadowski.

Guests: Steve Heisler, Dion Roddy, Stephanie Johnson, and Chris Piatkowski.

**B. Introductions.**

**C. Chair Report:**

Kent welcomed everyone.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

Chris Harrington made a motion to approve the December 2, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded, and was passed.

**E. Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee**

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s report, including the Three Months Ending 12/31/2017, and passed. A report of dues-paying members in the Section was also submitted.

**F. Corresponding Secretary**

No report.

## II. Key Committee Reports

### A. Amicus – no report

### B. Court Rules –

1. ADM File No. 2016-27 was addressed, but Council will not be taking a position on this proposal.

### C. Legislation –

1. **Alternative to HB 4691.** An Ad Hoc Committee was created for the purpose of drafting an alternative to HB 4691, and Barb Kelly was appointed the Chair of this Ad Hoc Committee. This project is being moved out of the Legislative Committee because the time investment and work necessary to create an acceptable alternative is leaving the Legislative Committee with inadequate time to focus on other legislative proposals. There are two competing approaches to how the alternative bill should be drafted, and this Committee will work on reconciling these approaches to provide one acceptable recommendation to Council; at that time, Council will vote on whether to approve or decline the Committee recommendations. See Barb Kelly if you would like to be on this Committee.
2. **HB 5359.** This bill seeks to require foster children to have psychiatric screening prior to placement for adoption. Jim Chryssikos made a motion that Council support this bill. Tina Yost-Johnson seconded the motion. **Council voted 18-0 to support the motion.**
3. **HB 5415.** This bill seeks to require both spouse to consent to a conveyance of a primary residence. Jim Chryssikos made a motion that Council support the concept of this bill, but that some of the language be modified because there are concerns about how this bill might create confusion for real property and title rights. Liz Bransdorfer seconded the motion. **Council voted 18-0 to support the motion.**
4. **HB 4272.** This bill would authorize township supervisors to perform marriages. Council declined to take a position on this bill.

### **III. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **A. Adoption**

No report.

#### **B. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

No oral report; refer to the written report to see what they have been up to.

#### **C. Alternative Family**

No Report.

#### **D. Annual Meeting**

September 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids.

#### **E. CLE/ICLE**

ICLE will be having a live seminar on Property Division and Spousal Support on 2/13/2018. There will also be a drafting seminar on 4/10/2018.

#### **F. Collaborative Law**

There is a Collaborative Law training session being held on 4/26/2018 and 4/27/2018 in Novi.

#### **G. Domestic Violence**

Discussion re: journal articles and the Women's Lawyers Section is discussing a program for PPO training and/or seminars.

#### **H. Family Court Forum**

It will be 6/8/2018 at Travis Pointe Country Club. Invites should be going out in February to March time frame. Topic will be: "Children Who Resist Parenting"

#### **I. Family Law Journal**

Technology Special Edition is in progress and coming along, to be published in June.

#### **J. Family Law Journal Advertising**

No report – Status Quo.

**K. Family Support**

The new tax reform laws are being implemented into the support calculators.

**L. Membership**

Membership is over 2,840 +/-.

**M. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars**

Mid-Winter: Everything is on track, and ready to go in a couple weeks.

Mid-Summer: will be 7/19-7/22 at Boyne Mountain. Sponsors and speaker volunteers are being requested, with sponsor donations starting at \$500. Recall that last year, we had a coffee bar and soda bar through the entire conference, due to additional sponsors. Every additional sponsor helps add to the enjoyment of the conference!

**N. Parenting Solutions**

This committee was “dissolved” and merged into the new Ad Hoc Committee which is preparing the alternative to HB 4691.

**O. Political Action Committee**

Matt Catchick reports that the Family Law PAC has a balance of \$34,366. He also produced a “Contribution Plan” for PAC in the coming year.

**P. QDRO/Taxation**

Current law has some recoupment issues that the Committee is looking into.

**Q. Technology/Social Media**

The Family Law Listserv is being cancelled, and hopefully it will be merged into a platform on the State Bar website. This is about a 6-month project.

**IV. Ad Hoc Committees**

**A. SCAO Forms Committee**

Please submit any comments for suggested changes.

**B. Twenty Year Review**

Continued discussion on the “One Court, One Family Judge” legislation.

**C. E-Filing Issues**

E-filing continues to be phased in.

**D. Public Relations Committee**

No Report

**E. Judicial Response Committee**

No Report

**F. Self-Represented Litigants**

No Report

**V. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS**

Chris Piatkowski: There will be a training for qualified examiners/evaluators in juvenile cases on 3/15-3/16.

Tina Yost-Johnson: There is a problem with current DHHS restrictions on placement; there is an “age test” of 50 year-olds which may prevent children from being placed with grandparents. This is an “old” statute, and may require some modification.

**VI. Future Meetings**

2017-18 Council Meeting schedule for remainder of the year:

March 3, 2018 – Doubletree, Novi at 9:30 am.

April 7, 2018– University Club, Lansing at 9:30 am.

May 5, 2018 – University Club, Lansing at 9:30 am.

June 2, 2018 – University Club, Lansing at 9:30 am.

**VII. Adjournment at 11:12am**

Respectfully submitted – Christopher Harrington