

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
Date: January 21, 2017
Place: University Club, East Lansing**

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Richard Halloran welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

The following (19) council members were present: J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Vanessa Moss-Williams, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Robert Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann and Tina Yost.

Council member absent: Daniel Bates

Council member excused: Elizabeth Bransdorfer

Ex-Officio and former council members: Elizabeth Sadowski

Guests:

Brooke Bass, Kristina A. Bilowus, Rebecca Decoster, Hon. Douglas Dosson, Dan Ferency, Kanika Ferency, Melissa Heffner, Steven A. Heisler, Stephanie Johnson, Ashish Joshi, Lawrence Nolan (State Bar President), Christine Piatkowski, Victoria Radke, Dion Roddy, Nycolle Schindlbeck, Kristin Smith, and Mieke V. Weissert.

B. Chair Report:

Dick Halloran welcomed Larry Nolan, State Bar President. Dick also mentioned that the committee information is listed on the State Bar webpage, including meeting dates and times. Please provide information on any subcommittee to Liz Bransdorfer so she can update the website. There is a sign-up sheet for the “Legislative Bull Pen”.

Dick also discussed nomination of Patrick Wilson by Shelley Kester. Shelley discussed the many accomplishments of her father. Sahera Housey made a motion to support the nomination of Pat Wilson, Kent Weichmann, seconded. The motion passed.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Allies (LGBTQA) section had their first meeting. Dick Halloran is the chair elect.

Dick said that the ethics committee and our court rules is addressing attorney liens.

Mat Kobliska and Amy Spilman are on the Discovery Rules subcommittee.

There was brief mention of holding council meetings during the summer months.

The chair thanked Dan Ferency for all his hard work.

C. Approval of Minutes

Sahera made a motion to approve the December 10, 2016 minutes. Kent seconded and the motion passed.

D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

Bob went over the summary from the State Bar and it is higher because of the money collected for the mid-winter conference.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. Amicus

Dick introduced Dion Roddy, the liaison to the Adoption committee. Dion spoke about In Re; MJG, which is currently at the Court of Appeals and the adoption committees position on same.

SCAO proposed changed to court forms and have until February 11 for comment.

B. Court Rules

Chris Harrington discussed:

1) Proposed amendment to MCR 3.208 and made a motion to support the amendment with removal of the "People of State of Michigan". Motion passed.

2) Proposed Amendment to MCR 9.108. This amendment would allow the Attorney Grievance Commission (AGC) to seek an injunction against an attorney even if a disciplinary proceeding is not pending. A motion was made to oppose this amendment. Motion passed.

3) Proposed Amendment to MCR 3.903, 3.932 and 3.936 which are a package of amendments that affect juvenile proceedings. Council discussed these amendments and no vote was taken.

4) Liens on attorney lien on family law/divorce cases. Discussion only.

Victoria Radke discussed ADM 2015-22, proposed amendment to MCR 3.203 & 3.208 regarding service by electronic means. Council previously opposed this amendment and confirmed the prior position to oppose.

Christine Piatkowski discussed ADM 2016-39 court rule amendment to the consent calendar. Discussion only.

C. Court Legislative

Kent made a motion that council affirm positions it previously took on the same bills that may be re-introduced, on short notice, until council can take a position. Sahera seconded and the motion passed.

Kent also discussed the initiatives on anti-trolling, arbitration of personal property and child support modification, post *Giffels* case.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

This was discussed as part of the Amicus committee.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

C. Alternative Family

Peter discussed the special edition of the Family Law Journal dedicated to LGBTQA issues.

D. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be at COBO Center in September, 2017 and the annual section meeting will be Thursday at 9 am.

E. CLE/ICLE

ICLE Family Law Institute will be November 9 & 10, 2017.

F. Domestic Violence

Dan Bates submitted his report and no action is needed.

G. Family Court Forum

No report

H. Family Law Journal

Anthea discussed the meeting of the journal editors. They are looking for authors and advertisers.

Council members are required to write at least one article during their term on council.

Anthea also encouraged members to take pictures of family law event and law event they may attend and submit them for publication in the journal.

Articles are due the 15th of each month.

I. Family Law Journal Advertising

Kristen was happy to report that OurFamilyWizard and Soberlink expressed an interest in advertising.

J. Family Support

The 2017 Michigan Child Support Formula has been in effect since January 1, 2017. Kent reminded everyone to use the new Uniform Child Support Order.

K. Membership

Steve Reinheimer made a motion for \$250 to be a gold sponsor for the Young Lawyers Summit.

Chris Harrington reported that U of D Mercy Law School has a networking event on March 16, 2017 between 5 -7 pm.

Victoria Radke said MSU Law also has a networking event.

Steve's report also included a joint meeting between Oakland and Macomb county family attorneys on February 23, 2017.

L. Political Action Committee

Matt Catchick reported that the balance is approximately \$31,000. He is looking at accepting electronic payments.

M. QDRO/Taxation

Bob reported on the overall important of the committee and the pro bono work.

N. Technology/Social Media

No report.

O. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Kristen Robinson reported the mid-winter seminar has 44 total attending. The seminar is in Punta Cana.

The mid-summer conference is at Mission Point Resort.

The dates are July 20 – 23, 2017.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Collaborative Law Committee** – Jim Chryssikos submitted his report on the proposed SCAO Collaborative Court Rules. He encourages members to review and make comments. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017.
- B. SCAO Forms Committee** – The next meeting is in March.
- C. Twenty Year Review** – Dick Halloran discussed MCL 600.1011 and the Family Court Plan.
- D. Parenting/custody Issues** – Kent reported the meeting for the committee will be the Tuesday before the council meetings.
- E. E-Filing Issues** – Liz Sadowski and Steven Heisler are getting feedback about different systems and the state is also looking at various providers.
- F. Public Relations Committee** – Mat Kobliska explained the committees' purpose.
- G. Judicial Response Committee** – Ashish Joshi is looking for volunteers to work on this committee. They are looking at parental alienation and the unjustified responses the public may have to court orders.

V. Announcements

VI. Future Meetings

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

February 4-11, 2017 Mid-winter, no council meeting
March 4, 2017, Doubletree, Novi
April 1, 2017, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids
May 6, 2017, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor
June 3, 2017, University Club, Lansing

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey