

MINUTES - FAMILY LAW COUNCIL, FAMILY LAW SECTION

Date: October 1, 2011

Place: Amway Grand, Grand Rapids, MI

Attendance:

- **Council Members Present:** Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Carol Breitmeyer, Neil Colman, Chris Harrington, James Harrington, III, Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop, Matthew Kobliska, Donna Mobilia, Steven Reinheimer, Traci Rink, Kristen Robinson, Erika Salerno, Connie Thacker
- **Guests:** Elizabeth S., Bill K., Ron Foon, Chris Yates, Debra Colletti, Allison Horton

I. Administrative Matters

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 AM.
- B. **Chairperson's Report:**
 - Attended the chairperson's leadership meeting
 - Learned about social media and impact on sections; consideration of how to proceed
 - See packet for addresses
 - Minutes approved
- C. **Treasurer:** No new report. If you are submitting reimbursement, must do. 9/30 and 10/1 can go to Traci; two separate forms needed
- D. **Recording Secretary:** Motion to approve September 2011 minutes. Approved unanimously

II. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. **Legislation.** No report from Kent Weichmann
 - Bill Kandler makes comments re: 4173 and 4172. Gave history re: "codification" effort and had a meeting, etc. November, December meetings likely; it is good that we have our email tree; we are ready to respond. The unnamed proponent still has McLellan, Cunningham, an actuary and prominent lobby firm hired. It is good we are starting with our own bill because we can focus on our own bill. Better offense, essentially.
- B. **Court Rules.** Carol Breitmeyer reported:
 - 1. Discussion about rules of professional responsibility and if they are stringent enough to deal appropriately with problems related to sexual relations between attorneys and clients. We discussed ABA and AAML model rules. Will monitor.
 - 2. Vote unanimously (19) to re-send council's letter to Supreme Court regarding MRPC Rule 1.5.
- C. **Adoption.** No report.

- D. **Alternative Dispute Resolution.** No report.
- E. **Alternative Family.** No report.
- F. **Amicus.** Mall case filed. Judith, Ann, Speaker. Recruited voluntarily to do summary for journal through May. At next council meeting will seek our permission to do amicus. *In re MKK*, 30292, regarding attorney fees and sanctions.
- G. **Annual Meeting.** No report.
- H. **CLE/ICLE.** No report.
- I. **Domestic Violence.** No report.
- J. **Family Court Forum.** Motion for family court forum sponsorship \$2,000. Unanimous approval.
- K. **Family Law Journal.**
 - ICLE has renewed their ad.
 - One new advertiser.
 - If you have an idea for ads.
- L. **Family Support.** No report.
- M. **Membership/Mentor Roundtables.** Liz S. No report.
- N. **Midwinter/Midsummer Seminars.**
 - Traci needs help on planning summer.
 - Materials: we will sell materials for \$75 at ICLE Institute.
 - Looking for ideas about how to limit the dissemination.
- O. **Political Action Committee.**
 - Neil Colman says 1,100 to date; looking for 3,500
 - Need money to contribute to legislators.
- P. **QDRO/Taxation.** No report.
- Q. **Technology.** Scott Bassett, Chris H, Liz are all on the tech team.
 - Encourages all committees to do phone call with skype.
 - E*File came up; much criticism on this.
 - Federal case pending regarding e-filing.
 - Lexis Nexis is our server.

III. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. **Resource Allocation Committee.** No report.
- B. **Parenting Coordination.** Dick Halloran, no report.
- C. **Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.** No report.

IV. New Business

Should we form a committee to get legal volunteers across state coordinated? An ad hoc committee is formed to gather data on what exists currently with Steve Reinheimer and _____.

October 13, 2011

Pursuant to our By-Laws found at 6.8: an electronic motion was made by chair

Connie Thacker to purchase highlighters at an approximate cost of \$250-300 to provide as "give-aways" at the Family Law Institution. Approved by 20 council members by electronic vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Next Meeting: **Saturday November 5, 2011** at Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Breakfast is available at 9:00 a.m. and meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Breitmeyer
Recording Secretary

DATED: October 27, 2011