

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Date: October 14, 2017  
Place: Hotel Indigo, Traverse City**

**I. Administrative matters**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

The council was called to order by Kent Weichmann.

The following (13) council members were present: Sean Blume, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Peter Kulas, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost.

Council member absent: Daniel Bates, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matthew Catchick, Mathew Kobliska, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Robert Treat, and Randy Velzen.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Richard Halloran, Elizabeth Sadowski, and Carlo Martina.

**B. Chair Report:**

Kent welcomed everyone and thanked the local Traverse City Bar for hosting in a new location. Announcement that a new Council seat would be open at the next meeting.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Chris Harrington made a motion to approve the September 28, 2017 minutes. Kent Weichmann seconded. The motion passed.

**D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee**

No report

**E. Corresponding Secretary**

No report.

## II. Key Committee Reports

- A. **Amicus** – requests for a brief on MIFPA an ICWA will be made
- B. **Court Rules** – Discussion of Supreme Court Administrative Hearing on September 20, 2017 and the ADM Files that passed; 2016-12, 2016-41, and 2017-06.

At the next meeting, the Court Rules Committee will have recommendations prepared for the Civil Discovery Reform Report and the Electronic Filing proposal under 2002-37.

- C. **Legislation** – Extensive discussion on HB 4691. Continue to work on an alternative proposal to 4691 and discussed the importance of having something ready but that we need a consensus with other interested groups such as MJA, RAM, and AAML. It would be best to have something that we favor, rather than rushing something before we get a sponsor on an alternative. Lots of the problems with 4691 were discussed and re-hashed. No vote taken at this time.

## III. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Adoption**

No Report.

- B. **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

No Report, but mention of the opt out for DV cases.

- C. **Alternative Family**

No Report.

- D. **Annual Meeting**

Date TBD.

- E. **CLE/ICLE**

Family Law Institute will be 11/9/17-11/10/17

- F. **Collaborative Law**

No Report

- G. **Domestic Violence**

No Report

**H. Family Court Forum**

No Report

**I. Family Law Journal**

Please submit articles by the end of your term! Email Anthy or Amy on this.

**J. Family Law Journal Advertising**

Discussion on success of Great Lakes Honor Roll. Revenue is up \$650 from last year.

**K. Family Support**

No Report.

**L. Membership**

Lapel pins will be available for purchase at the FLI. Discussion on success of law school recruiting

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

Everything is going well for Mid-Winter on 2/3/18-2/10/18 and there are a couple spots left; Mexico site was not hit by the hurricane.

**N. Parenting Solutions**

No Report.

**O. Political Action Committee**

No Report

**P. QDRO/Taxation**

No Report

**Q. Technology/Social Media**

No Report

**IV. Ad Hoc Committees**

**A. SCAO Forms Committee**

No Report

**B. Twenty Year Review**

Rep Runestad seemed to be on board with the idea of dedicated judges to the Family Law Bench

**C. E-Filing Issues**

No Report

**D. Public Relations Committee**

No Report

**E. Judicial Response Committee**

Discussion on having support for judges who get attacked in the media and being able to “correct” the public perception.

**F. Self-Represented Litigants**

No Report

**V. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS**

No Report

**VI. Future Meetings**

2017-18 Council year meeting schedule

December 2, 2017 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing at 9:30 am.

January 20, 2018 – Weber’s Inn, Ann Arbor at 9:30 am.

February 3-10, 2018 – Midwinter conference, Punta de Mita, Mexico.

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**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted – Christopher Harrington