

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: October 8, 2016

Place: Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Richard Halloran welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The following (17) council members were present: Daniel Bates, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Mathew Kobliska, Vanessa Moss-Williams, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Robert Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann and Tina Yost.

Council member excused: J. Matt Catchick

Council members absent: Elizabeth Bransdorfer and Peter Kulas.

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

Guests:

Sean Blume, Hon. Patrick Conlin, Jr., Hon. Douglas Dosson, Rebecca Ellis, Kiana Evelina Lee Franulic, Meletios Golematis, Steven A. Heisler, Stephanie Johnson, Shelley Kester, Jeffrey Kirkey, Christine Piatkowski, Nycolle Schindlbeck, Vicki Sherman, and Katie Strickfaden.

B. Chair Report & Council election:

Council election:

Carol Breitmeyer resigned at the end of September.

The following candidates ran for her seat: Hon. Patrick Conlin, Jr., Rebecca Ellis, Meletios (Mike) Golematis, Steven Heisler, Hon Patrick Hillary, Ashish Joshi, Shelley Kester, Nycolle Schindlbeck, Robert Stelmock and Kiana Evelina Lee Franulic.

Shelley Kester was elected.

Chair Report:

Dick Halloran reported:

- 1) That our section is the 4th largest section of the State Bar.
- 2) Council members are required to write an article for the journal sometime during their 3 year tenure.
- 3) He reviewed the by-laws and suggested that council members become familiar with them.
- 4) Addressed two new committees: 20 year review committee and custody and parenting time committee.
- 5) Corresponding secretary, Liz Bransdorfer will keep track of the requirement for the articles and write a monthly article for the State Bar Journal.

C. Approval of Minutes

Sahera moved for approval of the minutes from the September 22, 2016 meeting. Tina Yost seconded. The minutes were approved 17-0.

D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

Bob provided the general ledger and list of revenue and expenses and made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Kent seconded. The treasurer's report was approved 17-0.

A motion was made to re-affirm giving \$2,500 for scholarships for the ICLE Family Law Institute in November. The motion was previously made on September 22, 2016. The motion was approved 17-0.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. Legislation

Kent discussed HB 4141 substitute and this was a shared parenting time bill council previously opposed. Kent made a motion that council keep the same position and oppose this bill. Dan Bates seconded. The position to oppose the bill was approved 18-0.

B. Court Rules

Chris reported on MCR 3.705 and 3.708 – no action was required.

There was discussion about what constitutes an appeal of right for custody cases and Scott Bassett is working on this.

Mathew Kobliska was appointed to the State Bar of Michigan's Special Committee on Civil Discovery Court Review.

C. Amicus

Anne A. discussed the most recent mediation amendment and MCR 7.202.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

No report

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Randy reported on the position of the State Bar of Michigan ADR committee and made a motion that we adopt that position. Shon seconded. After much discussion, Bob Treat called the question and Jenny Johnsen seconded.

The motion was opposed 17-0 with 1 abstention. Therefore, the motion failed.

C. Alternative Family

A new section has been formed as part of the State bar: the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Allies Section.

There is a special committee report of over 70 pages to address: Same Sex Marriage: A Review of Michigan's Constitutional Provisions and Statute.

D. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be at COBO Center in September, 2017.

E. CLE/ICLE

Jeff Kirkey from ICLE reported that the FLI is November 10 and 11, 2016 and the first 50 new lawyers that sign up attend at a reduced rate of \$95.

ICLE Family Law Institute for next year will be November 9 and 10, 2017.

F. Domestic Violence

Dan resigned as chair of the special committee on batterer program standards. Rebecca Shiemke agreed to be chair.

Dan also addressed the Modified Batterer Intervention Standards for the State of Michigan and suggested that this maybe a court rule issue.

G. Family Court Forum

Barbara Kelly indicated that the Family Law Forum will be on Friday, June 9, 2017. Sahera made a motion to approve \$2,000 for the Family Law Forum. Kent seconded. The motion passed 18-0.

H. Family Law Journal

Anthea reported the journal is possibly being reformatted to 6 issues. She is looking for new authors with diverse topics. After discussion, the matter was tabled for more information.

I. Family Law Journal Advertising

Kristen is seeking additional help with journal advertising and looking for new advertisers.

J. Family Support

The state MiChildSupportCalculator will be available to the public to allow parties and attorneys to use the same calculator that the Friend of the Court uses.

K. Membership

Steve stated that he and Matt Catchick are co-chairs of this committee and there are over 2,900 paying members of the section.

L. Political Action Committee

Ross Stancati reported the importance of PAC contributions. Please send contributions to Ross or J. Matt Catchick. Contributions are necessary for council to have a voice on issues that impact families and children.

M. QDRO/Taxation

Bob reported that Joe Cunningham, Mike Golematis and Nancy Keppleman are members and are providing bro-bono QDROs.

N. Technology/Social Media

Liz Sadowski stated the Supreme Court is soliciting information on e-filing and Scott Bassett is assisting with a unified e-filing system.

O. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Kent, on behalf of Liz B, made a motion to approve a deposit of \$1,500 to secure Mission Point Resort for the July, 2017 mid-summer seminar. Sahera seconded. The motion passed 18-0.

Kristen reported that there may be one spot for the mid-winter seminar, otherwise it is sold out.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

A. SCAO Forms Committee

B. Comments from Rep Assembly, SBM/ICLE attendee

C. Ad Hoc Committees: PR Committee “Mandatory 50/50 Update”

All Ad Hoc Committee information was given as part of the chair report.

V. Announcements

Jim Chryssikos announced the collaborative professionals meeting on October 18, 2016 at 6 pm.

Steve is looking for members to host the table during the FLI.

Christine P. announced the Children’s Law Section has a seminar on December 2, 2016 at the Doubletree in Novi.

Tina Yost thanked all who have supported her run for Circuit Judge.

Katie S. from Lakeshore Legal Aid indicating they are looking for attorneys and expanding their offices to the 3 counties and the thumb region. Lakeshore Legal Aid 50th Anniversary event is November 17, 2016.

VI. Future Meetings

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

November 11, 2016, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi (following FLI)

December 10, 2016, Doubletree, Novi

January 21, 2017, University Club, Lansing

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 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey