

**MINUTES - FAMILY LAW COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: November 1, 2014

Place: Doubletree Hotel, Novi

I. Administrative Matters

A. Chair Rebecca Shiemke called Council to order.
18 council members were present: Rebecca Shiemke, Carol Breitmeyer, Dick Halloran, Kent Weichmann, Robert Treat, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matthew Catchik, Jr., Christopher J. Harrington, Sahera Housey, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Colleen Markou, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Randall Velzen

Absent: Daniel Bates, Tina Johnson (Yost), Gail Towne

Ex-Officios & Former Council Members: Neil Colman, Ross Stancati, Judith O'Donnell, Elizabeth Sadowski, Jim Harrington, Anne Argiroff

Guests: Bill Kandler, Rio Vale, Kyle Bierlein, Andrew Littman, Jorin Rubin, Jenny Johnson, James Chryssikos, Rachael Taylor, Ken Overwater.
Christine Piakowski

B. All attendees introduced themselves

C. Chair Report - Rebecca Shiemke announced that the Blaine Johnson award will be awarded posthumously to John Mills at the Family Law Institute. She also moved that the cost for the Family Law Journal for non-members be changed from \$33 to \$50, which passed 17-1. Rebecca announced the new State Bar website, "State Bar Connect," which will replace the current web site. She also announced Chris Harrington as a member of the Michigan Lawyers Weekly "Up and Coming" class of 2014.

D. Recording Secretary Report/Minutes - No Report.

E. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee – Rebecca Shiemke appointed Dick Halloran chair of the Budget Committee. The budget committee recommended approval of expense reimbursement up to \$150 limited to twice per year to include accommodations, parking and mileage for travel of 100 miles, and a motion was made. The motion passed 18-0.

II. Key Committees

A. Amicus – No Report.

B. Court Rules – Co-Chairs Mathew Kobliska and Chris Harrington.
Mathew Kobliska moved to adopt amending rules per the joint effort with the Court Rules committee and the ADR Committee, such rules

being 3.203, 3.205, 3.206 and 3.210 regarding captioning of certain domestic relations cases. After considerable discussion, the motion passed 13-5. As to ADM 2014-12, Mathew moved we support allowing parties to stipulate to post judgment arbitration, consistent with our past support. The motion passed 18-0. Regarding ADM 2014-37, Chris Harrington discussed briefly the issue of emergency removal of a child, but suggested that we defer to the Children's Law section on the ADM. Regarding MCR 3.215 and the recommended improvements in some counties' FOC hearing recordings, Chris Harrington moved that the council approve the amendment to the rule, and the motion passed 18-0.

- C. Legislation – No Report. There was discussion about SB 981 and the need to write letters to the appropriate representatives.

III. Standing Committee Reports

- A. Adoption – No Report
- B. Alternative Dispute Resolution – Randy Velzen reported that the committee has set its agenda for next year.
- C. Alternative Family – Peter Kulas noted that in a recent case the judge applied the equitable parent doctrine in a same sex marriage. He also noted that there are now 32 states that recognize same sex marriages.
- D. CLE/ICLE – Liz Bransdorfer announced that ICLE is looking into removing old content that tends to clutter searches and the website, if such content is more than three years old.
- E. Domestic Violence – No Report.
- F. Family Court Forum – no report
- G. Family Law Journal – Anthea Papista announced that articles are now due on the last day of the month.
- H. Family Law Journal Advertising – Kristin Robinson stated that we should continue to seek out Great Lakes Honor Roll contributors. She reminded us that such contributions are considered advertising.
- I. Family Support – Kent Weichmann reported that the schedule for review of the child support guidelines will begin next year.
- J. Membership – It was announced that we now have 2901 members. A motion was made to amend the by-laws at the next annual meeting to make free membership for new attorneys one year instead of two, and to make law student membership free. The motion passed 18-0. There was discussion about prorating our dues for joiners who join part way through the year. Dick Halloran said he would investigate the feasibility of this with contacts at the SBM. There was a reminder that we will have a table set up at the annual Family Law Institute, and we'll need volunteers to stop by and tend the display for a time, so that it is not unattended. Chris Harrington discussed a possible meet-up in the evening, and will advise further.
- K. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars
 - a. Mid-Winter – Judith O'Donnell announced that it is sold out.

- b. Mid-Summer – Elizabeth Bransdorfer reiterated the need for speakers and topics that can be based on theme music, which this year will be Jimmy Buffet, and she passed around a folder of songs for consideration and ideas.
- L. Political Action Committee – Ross Stancati announced that he has been receiving checks and the PAC shows signs of doing well.
- M. QDRO/Taxation – no report
- N. Technology/Website – no report

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Social Media Committee – no report
- B. SCAO Forms Committee – It was announced that the new Uniform Child Support Order is approved, effective 1/1/15.

V. Announcements/New Business

Kent Weichmann will be sworn in as the Wayne County Friend of the Court on November 20, 2014. The ceremony will be at 4:00 on the 13th floor of the Courts Tower, and all are welcome to attend.

VI. Future Council Meetings

All council meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m., with a breakfast buffet starting at 9:00 a.m.

December 6, 2014	East Lansing - Kellogg Center
January 24, 2015	East Lansing - Kellogg Center
March 7, 2015	Ann Arbor - Weber's Inn
April 11, 2015	Novi – Double Tree Hilton Hotel
May 2, 2015	Grand Rapids – Amway Hotel
June 6, 2015	Ann Arbor - Weber's Inn

VII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Treat, Recording Secretary
November 3, 2014