

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Date: November 11, 2016  
Place: Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi**

**I. Administrative matters**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Richard Halloran welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

The following (20) council members were present: Daniel Bates, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, 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 excused: Christopher Harrington

Ex-Officio and former council members: Anne Argiroff, Gail Towne, Elizabeth Sadowski, Rebecca Shiemke, Ross Stancati, and Amy Yu.

Guests:

Katie Baluha, Scott Bassett, Melissa Baumgartner, Kristina A. Bilowus, Sean Blume, Marilyn Chapin, Robert Crosby, Lisa M. Damphousse, Rebecca Decoster, Catrina Farrugia, Amy Foerster, Kiana Evelina Lee Franulic, Lisa Geherin, Rachel Gruetzner, Melissa Heffner, Steven A. Heisler, Blair Johnson, Ashish S. Joshi, Nadine M. Koppin, Matthew Linden, Courtney Marshall, Michelle McLean, Mary Ann Osterbeck, Carmen Peterson, Victoria Radke, Jacqueline Russell, Nycolle Schindlbeck, John Schrot, Anita Scott-Meisel, Katie Strickfaden, Justine Sylvester, Hon. Jon Van Allsburg, Christine Welton, and Kristen Wolfram.

**B. Chair Report:**

Dick Halloran reported how the various committees work and that members of the section may participate in committees. They should participate and get involved in the section.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

The Approval of the October, 2016 minutes will take place at the December meeting.

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

Bob reported that the State Bar is working on the fiscal year-end report and it has not been provided yet.

### **II. Key Committee Reports**

#### **A. Amicus**

Anne A. discussed amendment to MCR 7.213. The comment period is until January 1, 2017.

Anyone who is interested in writing case summaries for the journal please contact Gail.

#### **B. Court Rules**

Mathew Kobliska (for Chris Harrington) discussed proposed Amendment to MCR 3.216 which deals with domestic relations cases that also included a Personal Protection Order.

Proposed Amendment to MCR 3.216 - Mat made a motion to adopt the revisions and they were seconded by Kent. Liz B made a friendly amendment to add "After a hearing", the court may order mediation if a protected party requests mediation. The friendly amendment was seconded by Kent.

Proposed Amendment to MCR 8.216 – this would allow out-of-state counsel to appear more easily in Indian child cases. Motion was made by Mat, seconded by Kent and passed. 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Mat Kobliska also discussed that the audio and video recordings of hearings apply to FOC hearings also.

Mat Kobliska discussed the State Bar of Michigan's Special Committee on Civil Discovery Court Review.

Anne Argiroff discussed Amendment to MCR 7.213 – the comment period is until January 1, 2017. (also in Amicus)

#### **C. Legislative**

Kent reported on the Shared Parenting Bill/Revised HB 4141. The Section has been working on this issue for months and has a committee to review the bill. Council wants to work with the legislators to assist with revisions to this bill. Council has been actively seeking information and a survey around the state from attorneys, judges and parties to get input on how this legislation impacts Michigan families and children.

### **III. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **A. Adoption**

No report

#### **B. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Randy on the various committees ADR is involved with, including collaborative, ADR section of State Bar, and Parenting Coordination. Council voted not to approve the revisions as proposed by the State Bar ADR committee as ADR may be applied differently to family law cases.

#### **C. Alternative Family**

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

There will be a special edition published of the Family Law Journal dedicated to issues related to alternative families.

There is a 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 and the annual section meeting will be Thursday at 9 am.

#### **E. CLE/ICLE**

Today concluded the ICLE seminar and it was a huge success.

#### **F. Domestic Violence**

The committee had 3 new members. Dan reported that council should support the amendment to MCR 3.216.

#### **G. Family Court Forum**

No report

#### **H. Family Law Journal**

Anthea reported that Amy is now the co-editor of the journal. They are looking for authors.

There will be 2 special editions and 10 regular editions.

The former motion to reduce the number of journals to 6 per year was withdrawn by Anthea and seconded by Sahera.

Articles are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**I. Family Law Journal Advertising**

Kristen reported on ad revenue and always looking for new advertisers. Also discussed how advertising impacts revenues.

**J. Family Support**

The 2017 Michigan Child Support Formula will be effective January 1, 2017. Some of the ICLE seminar addressed changes to the MCSF.

**K. Membership**

Steve stated the section is growing and added new members from the ICLE seminar.

**L. Political Action Committee**

Ross and Matt Catchick reported the importance of PAC contributions. Please send contributions to 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 the committee met and are discussing the Amendment to the EDRO Act to address recoupment.

**N. Technology/Social Media**

No report.

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

Kristen reported the mid-winter seminar is sold out. She also explained that the final payments are due November 15. The registrations are done through the State Bar. Contact her with questions.

Liz Bransdorfer reported the contract with Mission Point Resort has been signed. The seminar will be July 20 – 23, 2017. Contact Traci Rink for speakers.

Liz also reported that members may make reservations for the mid-summer conference which will be held at Mission Point in Mackinac Island.

#### **IV. Ad Hoc Committees**

**A. SCAO Forms Committee** - making forms gender neutral – Verified Statement is already modified. Need IV-D services form when filing a DM.

**B. Comments from Rep Assembly, SBM/ICLE attendee**

No report

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

Given as part of the chair report

#### **V. Announcements**

Tina Yost won her election for the Circuit Court – Congratulations!

#### **VI. Future Meetings**

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

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 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey