

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
FAMILY LAW COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2012  
Place: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI  
Attendance: COUNCIL: *Present*: Traci Rink, Jim Harrington, Rebecca Shiemke, Carol Breitmeyer, Richard Halloran, Daniel Bates, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Christopher Harrington, David Hoort, Sahera Housey, Mathew Kobliska, Donna Mobilia, Antoinette Raheem, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Alison Sleight, Ross Stancati, Gail Towne, Robert Treat, Stacy Van Dyken, Randall Velzen; *Absent*: Erika Salerno  
GUESTS: Connie Thacker, Tina Yost, Peter M. Kulas, Ron Foon, Bill Kandler

**AGENDA**

**I. Administrative Matters**

- A. **Call to Order:** 9:32 AM
- B. **Chairperson's Report:** began with introductions by everyone present.
  - (i) The Chair would like input from people who attended the Family Law Institute so she can include it in her monthly column.
  - (ii) Donna Mobilia is resigning her Council Seat at the end of this meeting. An election to fill the seat will be held at the next Council meeting.
  - (iii) The next Council meeting will be January 26, 2013 in Novi, MI.
  - (iv) All past issues of the Family Law Journal are now available online
  - (v) Space for the State Bar meeting needs to be reserved.
- C. **Recording Secretary's Report:** Minutes of previous meeting were approved after a waiving of their reading.
- D. **Treasurer's Report:** No Report

**II. Key Committees**

- A. **Amicus:** The Council approved writing an *Amicus* Brief in *Grange v Lawrence* (COA #303031) by a vote of 20/0.  
The Council approved writing an *Amicus* Brief in *In re Kieca* (COA #307194) by a vote of 20/0.  
The Committee is exploring whether they should begin offering *Amicus* support for Court of Appeals Cases.
- B. **Court Rules:** The Committee considered Admin 2012-19 and recommended further exploration of these Court rules. The Council granted approval 20/0.  
The Committee is working with the State Bar on the vetting process for our position on MCR2.302.  
The Default Judgment Rule is again being reconsidered.
- C. **Legislation:**
  - HB5986. The Committee recommended opposing this bill until technical amendments are made to it the Council agreed 19/1.
  - HB5987. The Committee recommends the Council oppose this bill until technical amendments are made. Council agreed 17/3.
  - SB694. The Committee recommends Council oppose the language of this bill as overbroad. The Council agreed 20/0.
  - SB 1296. The Committee recommends support of this bill. The Council agreed 20/0.
  - SB1312/HB 5812. The Committee recommended continued opposition to this bill. The Council agreed 20/0.

**III. Standing Committee Reports**

**A. Alternative Dispute Resolution:**

- (i) The Committee is working with the Domestic Violence Committee and finalizing publications on FAQs, a chart of ADR methods, processes and a brochure for the public to be made available online.
- (ii) They are hoping to work with Doug Van Epps of SCAO to gain more support for the use of ADR in Family Law.
- (iii) They are developing a video to explain ADR.
- (iv) A motion was made to support the Great Lakes Mediation Competition at Colley Law School, March 2-3, 2013 in the amount of \$500 as we did this past year. Council approved the donation 20/0.

**B. Alternative Family:**

- (i) The Committee has been discussing various topics to bring to Council for support.
- (ii) There was a discussion of Maxey v Fitch on assisted reproduction and a presentation on how the AAML has set up an alternative Family Committee and we should work with them on issues.

**C. Annual Meeting:**

- *Lansing, September 18-20, 2013* Annual Dinner will be Sept 18.

**D. CLE/ICLE:**

510 people attended the Family Law Institute. 82% were section members. A discussion ensued about the space problems and availability of topics. The planning meeting for the next Institute will be in February 2013. The Council voted 19/0/1 that the materials in the binders have tabs.

**E. Domestic Violence:**

The Committee is working with the ADR Committee on brochures and looking at conciliation sessions in some counties to help develop best practices.

**F. Family Court Forum: No Report**

**G. Family Law Journal:**

- (i) The Committee is moving forward with developing an electronic version of the Family Law Journal and exploring costs and whether to charge a fee for hard copies. Savings might allow more Special Issue Journals.
- (ii) There will now be an address for correspondence to the Journal.
- (iii) All Journal articles must have a way to contact the author of the article.

**H. Family Support:**

Information will be posted online to provide access to the new guidelines and a video explaining them, especially that the new USO says that all prior orders are gone.

**I. Journal Advertising:**

The Chair of the Committee recruited three new advertisers at the Institute and got one to return.

**J. Membership/Mentor Roundtables:**

The Committee is still working with University of Detroit Mercy in recruiting members.

**K. Midwinter/Midsummer Seminars:**

(Winter) – *Bitter End Yacht Club Virgin Gorda*

(Summer) Discussion occurred about location the consensus becoming Boyne Mountain.

**L. Political Action Committee:**

With over 2500 members in the section only 28 have made a contribution to the PAC. It was determined that an article would be written for the Journal explaining the PAC and soliciting donations.

**M. QDRO/Taxation: No Report**

**N. Technology:**

- (i) The Committee reported that it was looking onto developing a Facebook page for the Section.

(ii) Former Council member and past Chair Connie Thacker warned members about accepting AVVO evaluation and the problems with negative comments.

IV. **Ad Hoc Committees**

A. **Parenting Coordination:** No Report

B. **Procedures Committee:** No Report

V. **Announcements/New Business;**

(i) Ron Bookholder is moving to Arizona

(ii) Congratulations were given to Jim Harrington for his receiving the Blaine Johnson Award at the Family Law Institute.

(ii) Dick Halloran reminded the members that Measure for Measure will be performing with the Ann Arbor Symphony at Hill Auditorium on December 7, 2012 and the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club on December 8, 2012 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

(v) Discussion ensued about the recent legislation PA 338 which requires all courts to develop plans of concurrent jurisdiction. Concern was expressed about how this would affect the Family Division and what might happen with the issuance of PPOs. The Chair setup an *ad hoc* Committee to explore the ramifications of this act.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

**Next Meeting: January 26, 2013 at Double Tree, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi, MI 48375 with breakfast starting at 9:00 am and the meeting starting promptly at 9:30 am and ending at 11:30 am.**