

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
Date: December 2, 2017
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing**

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

The council was called to order by Kent Weichmann.

The following (20) council members were present: Sean Blume, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Matt Catchick, Shon Cook, Mike Golematis Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas-Dominguez, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Robert Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost.

Council members absent: Jim Chryssikos.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Rebecca Shiemke, Elizabeth Sadowski, and Ross Stancati.

Guests: Sarah Green and Steve Heisler.

B. Introductions.

C. Chair Report:

Kent welcomed everyone.

D. Approval of Minutes

Chris Harrington made a motion to approve the November 10, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded, and was passed.

E. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

No report.

F. Corresponding Secretary

Please contact Sahera Housey if anyone is interested in writing an article for the Michigan Bar Journal.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. Amicus – no report

B. Court Rules –

1. A work group was formed to take a look at the objection procedure following Referee hearings. The work group will be looking at whether an objection filed by one party on one limited issue opens the door for a full review of all issues that were heard at the Referee hearing.
2. Council declined to take a position on ADM Files 2017-18, 2015-26, 2016-13, 2017-08, and 2017-19.

C. Legislation – Lengthy discussion on HB 4691 and the status of an acceptable alternative that could be approved by Council. There are a couple different approaches being drafted for an alternative. Each alternative is being drafted with a focus on (1) addressing the concerns brought up by the proponents of HB 4691, while (2) also providing a legal framework that will be an improvement on current law when applied by the Courts.

Discussion included that the draft we propose needs to have some level of support from other groups such as AAML, MJA, RAM, the DV community, and the Probate Judges. If there is no additional support from these groups, it will be difficult getting much traction on passing a bill. Council Members and people from the drafting work groups continue to write and review the draft proposals and provide input on acceptable versions before finalizing it for a Council vote. While Council has not voted on final language for an agreed-upon alternative, a motion was made to continue the drafting process for an alternative to HB 4691. This motion passed.

SB 665. Upon the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, and after discussion, Council voted 19-0 to support this bill. The intention of this bill is to expand “sick leave” to apply to health issues stemming from domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

SB 666. Upon the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, and after discussion, Council voted 19-0 to support this bill. The intention of this bill is to prevent certain disqualifications of benefits when an employee leaves an employer for reasons related to domestic violence.

SB 667. Upon the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, and after discussion, Council voted to support this bill 15-4. The intent of this bill is to prevent local government from penalizing and/or charging residents from making police or emergency calls in certain situations.

SB 668. The Council voted to not support this bill as written. There was a lot of concern about the requirements placed on law enforcement units in this proposal. There were also safety concerns that law enforcement units may not have adequate resources to comply with some of the requirements in the draft.

No position was taken on HB 5278 or SB 650. There was some mention of HB 4751 on prenuptial agreements and that it has passed out of Committee.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

No report.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

No report.

C. Alternative Family

No Report.

D. Annual Meeting

September 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids.

E. CLE/ICLE

No report.

F. Collaborative Law

There is a Collaborative Law training session being held on 1/19/2018. See Jim Chryssikos for details.

G. Domestic Violence

No report.

H. Family Court Forum

No Report.

I. Family Law Journal

The next Special Edition of the Journal will be in June, and will be focused on Technology in practice. Get your ideas to Anthy and Amy.

J. Family Law Journal Advertising

No report.

K. Family Support

No Report.

L. Membership

Membership is over 2,800. Sale of lapel pins continues to go well.

M. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Everything is on track for Mid-Winter. Boyne Mountain is likely destination; final selection on dates TBD, but leaning towards weekend of July 20-22.

N. Parenting Solutions

No Report.

O. Political Action Committee

Get your money to Matt C.!!!!!!

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

No Report

C. E-Filing Issues

No Report

D. Public Relations Committee

No Report

E. Judicial Response Committee

No Report

F. Self-Represented Litigants

No Report

V. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. Future Meetings

2017-18 Council Meeting schedule for remainder of the year:

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 at 11:42am

Respectfully submitted – Christopher Harrington