

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
Date: FEBRUARY 6, 2016
Place: University Club, East Lansing**

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Carol Breitmeyer welcomed all of the guests called the meeting to order. 19 Council Members were present: Dan Bates, Carol Breitmeyer, Matt Catchick, Jim Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Dick Halloran, Chris Harrington, Sahera Housey, Matt Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steve Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Kent Weichmann, and Tina Yost. Gail Towne and Bob Treat were absent.

Ex-Officio and Former Council Members: Anne Argiroff, Christine Ratkowski, Colleen Markou, Traci Rink, Todd Selin, Ross Stancati

Guests: Pamela Amarko, Hon. Douglas Dosson, Stephanie Johnson, Bill Kandler, Pat Oullette, Jessica Waite, Amanda Wolanin.

B. Chair Report

Carol reported that she had nothing significant to report and we should move on with the agenda.

C. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the December, 2015 meeting were accepted on Motion by Tina Yost and seconded by Kent Weichmann.

D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

Kent reviewed the State Bar financial statements and moved acceptance of the reports, seconded by Dick Halloran and unanimously approved.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. Legislation

Kent reported on the Post Minority Support Act. A number of proposed revisions were supported: to strike the age language, eliminate course restriction language, prefer a stop date and eliminate any administrative process.

Tina Yost indicated she would talk with State Rep Bizon.

Dick Halloran would work with MJA on HB 4480.

Dan Bates would follow up on legislation concerning Batterer Intervention Standards.

Randy Velzen met with State Rep Hooker.

Bill Kandler spoke on Rep Runstad's interest in changing the custody factors.

B. Court Rules

Chris Harrington reported that the Amendment was denied.

Matt Kobliska discussed a meeting with SCAO on April 15, 2016 regarding ADR.

C. Amicus

Anne Argiroff reported that the Committee finished the brief to the Supreme Court in *Allard*. Oral arguments are March 9, 2016.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

No report.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Randy Velzen noted that there was a written report, copy circulated with the agenda, and in addition reported (1) there is discussion regarding efforts to clarify the interaction between and among the Family Law Section Domestic Violence Committee, the Family Law Section ADR Committee and the DV subcommittee of the ADR Section of the State Bar, (2) the State Bar ADR section's mandatory mediation proposal is not moving fast, (3) SCAO and Friends of the Courts are still working and (4) The situation with self-represented litigants.

C. Alternative Family

No report.

D. Annual Meeting

No report.

E. CLE/ICLE

The 2016 Family Law Institute committee met and is developing a program for November.

F. Domestic Violence

Dan Bates reported on the horrifying return of Kings.com.

G. Family Court Forum

No report.

H. Family Law Journal

Anthea Papista reported that the February issue is in the final editing process.

I. Family Law Journal Advertising

Kristin Robinson reported that things are going well the Journal advertising.

J. Family Support

No report.

K. Membership

Steve Reinheimer reported we have 3,044 members. Matt, Chris and Liz would be at a legal advocacy fair at UDMercy on February 23, 2016.

L. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Kristin Robinson reported that Mid-Winter went very well with 25 seminar attendees and 44 total participants.

Traci Rink indicated the Mid Summer Seminar is at Grand Traverse and is looking for speakers.

M. Political Action Committee

Ross Stancati reported that the PAC balance is \$26,000.

N. QDRO/Taxation

No report.

O. Technology/Social Media

No report.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

A. Website

No report.

B. SCAO Forms Committee

No report.

C. Comments from Rep Assembly, SBM/ICLE attendee

No report.

V. Announcements

Vanessa Moss-Wilson announced she is running for Congress.

Tina Yost also made an announcement.

VI. Future Meetings

Saturday, April 9, 2016, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

Saturday, May 7, 2016, University Club, Lansing

Saturday, June 4, 2016, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

VII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Halloran, standing in for a grateful Liz Bransdorfer, Recording Secretary