

## MINUTES – FAMILY LAW COUNCIL, FAMILY LAW SECTION

Saturday, March 3, 2012  
Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI

### Attendance:

- o **Council Members Present (17):** Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Neil Colman, Richard Halloran, Chris Harrington, James Harrington III, Donna Mobilia, Antoinette Raheem, Steven Reinheimer, Traci Rink, Kristen Robinson, Erika Salerno, Rebecca Shiemke, Ross Stancati, Connie Thacker, Gail Towne, Kent Weichmann, Stacey Van Dyken
- o **Ex Officio & past Council Members:** David Sarnacki
- o **Guests:** Ron Foon, Peter Kulas, Allison Sleight, Debra Colletti, John Potter, Matt Smith, Jayne Dykema, Bill Kandler, Pat Ouellette, Chris Brigman

### I. Administrative Matters

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- B. **Chairperson's Report:**
  - Note that the agenda includes the annual meeting date and time and information regarding the summer and winter seminars.
  - Asking for a showing of hands, the majority of those present are on Linked In.
- C. **Recording Secretary Report** – Minutes from the January 28, 2012 meeting were unanimously adopted.
- D. **Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's report was unanimously adopted.

### II. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Amicus.** Council voted 17-0 to submit an amicus brief supporting the Court of Appeals decision in *P v Zajackowski*.
- B. **Court Rules.**
  - **MCR 3.213** – Council voted 17-0 to support an amendment to MCR 3.213 to add the following sentence at the end: “...and discovery under subchapter 2.300 is available while post judgment motions are pending.”
  - **MCR 2.117** – The committee will review possible revisions to post-judgment appearance under this court rule.
  - **ADM file 2010-22** – A public hearing is scheduled for March 27, 2012 regarding the anti-trolling provision. Anyone interested in participated should contact Jim Harrington.
- D. **Legislation.**
  - **HB 5328** - Council voted 17-0 to support HB 5328, which amends the Acknowledgment of Parentage Act to provide that revocation is governed by the Revocation of Paternity Act (RPA).
  - **HB 5329** - Council voted 17-0 to support HB 5329, which amends the Paternity Act to provide that revocation is governed by the RPA.
  - **SB 989** - Council voted 17-0 to oppose SB 989, which would prevent courts from awarding any parenting time to a parent if anyone in that parent's household is convicted of a felony requiring them to register under the Sex Offenders Registration Act, unless the other parent and the child agree to the parenting time. Rather, council suggests that i might be

useful to create a protocol for handling this type of case. The SCAO has a [manual for Custody and Parenting Time Evaluations](#) that discusses [factors for parenting time](#). Page 13 of the [Parenting Time Guidelines](#) begins the discussion of supervised visitation. These could be updated to include specific sections for evaluating cases where a parent has been convicted of inappropriate behavior with a minor. It would also be possible to add a factor to the parenting time statute, MCL 722.27a, to give the court more specific direction in these cases.

- **SB 1000** - Council voted 17-0 to oppose SB 1000, which would prevent the court from allowing parenting time to occur in any country not party to the Hague Convention, and instead suggest the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act approach as an alternative.
- **Sealing court files** - Council agreed to continue to review proposals to seal domestic relations files. It was suggested that cost could be a factor and Council is interested in investigating this issue.

F. **Alternative Dispute Resolution.** A written report was circulated detailing the committee's work.

G. **Alternative Family.** No report.

H. **Annual Meeting.**

- JW Marriott Wednesday, September 19, 2012; 5:30 reception, 6:30 dinner

B. **CLE/ICLE.** Note that the dates for the Family Law Institute have been changed to November 15-16.

C. **Domestic Violence.** No report.

D. **Family Court Forum.** June 15, 2012 and the topic is custody cases with child protective services involvement.

E. **Family Law Journal.** No report.

F. **Family Support.** No report.

G. **Journal Advertising.** No report.

H. **Membership/Mentor Roundtables.** No report.

I. **Midwinter/Midsummer Seminars.**

- Winter – Bitter End Yacht Club, Virgin Gorda.  
Council voted 17-0 authorizing Judith O'Donnell to sign a contract on council's behalf if first approved by the State Bar of Michigan.
- Summer – Homestead, July 19 – 22.  
Council voted 17-0 authorizing payment of a \$1500 deposit.

C. **Political Action Committee.** It was noted that from September 2011 to today, 35 members have contributed approximately \$3200.

D. **QDRO/Taxation.** No report.

E. **Technology.** The chair will invite someone from the SBM to attend our next meeting to give a demonstration on Linked In.

### III. Ad Hoc Committees

A. **Parenting Coordination.** Looking for a bill sponsor.

B. **Equal Justice.** At the request of Ross Stancati, the committee was discontinued.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2012 at the University Club, 3435 Forest Rd, Lansing, MI with breakfast at 9:00 am and the meeting starting promptly at 9:30am and ending at 11:30 am.