

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Date: April 1, 2017  
Place: Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids**

**I. Administrative matters**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Richard Halloran welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

The following (16) council members were present: Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost.

Council member absent: Daniel Bates, Vanessa Moss-Williams, Anthea Papista, Amy Spilman, and Robert Treat.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Gail Towne, Colleen Markou, Ross Stancati.

Guests: Kristina Bilowus, Hon. Douglas Dosson, Melissa Heffner, Steven Heisler, Pat Ouellette, and John Schrot.

**B. Chair Report:**

Dick Halloran welcomed everyone. Dick indicated Justice Robert Young will be resigning from the Michigan Supreme Court on April 30, 2017. AAML requested a list of members. They were given permission to use last year's list and they will be sending a check. He recommended that members of the section join the LGBTQA section of the State Bar. The Representative Assembly is reviewing forms and members should contact Chris Harrington about questions.

The legislature is reviewing tenancy by the entirety and this should be addressed by the legislative committee.

Dick also mentioned that maybe members of this section should serve as liaisons on other committees, including the Children's Law Section.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Sahera Housey made a motion to approve the March 4, 2017 minutes. Tina Yost seconded and the motion passed.

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

Bob Treat was not present but had previously emailed the reports from the State Bar. It appears our balance is higher this year than same time last year.

#### **E. Corresponding Secretary**

Liz Bransdorfer requested that if anyone has any ideas or topics for the article she writes on behalf of the section for the Michigan Bar Journal to please forward them to her.

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

#### **A. Amicus**

Gail Towne reported that leave to appeal to the Supreme Court has not been filed for the Allard decision. There was discussion of the Lieberman v Orr decision and implications on change of custody.

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

Chris Harrington discussed the following:

- 1) ADM File No. 2015-24 – Proposed Amendments to MCR 2.116 and 2.119 which put limits on reply briefs to Motions for Summary Disposition. Chris made a motion to support these amendments. Shelley Kester, seconded. The motion passed.
- 2) ADM File No. 2016-39 – Proposed Amendments to MCR 3.903, 3.932 and 3.936. No position was taken as these amendments deal with delinquency proceedings, consent calendar and juvenile court rules.
- 3) MCR 3.211(B)(1) – since dower is to be eliminated as of April 7, 2017, the court rule needs to be changed to address same. The committee will continue to follow this change.

#### **C. Legislation**

Kent Weichmann discussed the following:

- 1) SB 222 is a reintroduction of a bill we previously supported. This bill eliminates unmarried lewd and lascivious cohabitation from MCL 750.335, which is a misdemeanor. Kent made a motion to support this bill, Liz Bransdorfer seconded. The motion passed.
- 2) HB 4096 is a reintroduction of a bill council opposed last term. It would allow a court to include provisions for custody, child support, and spousal support in

a personal protection order. Kent made a motion to oppose this bill, Tina Yost seconded. Motion passed.

- 3) Post-minority child support draft - last term's council suggested revisions to the draft post-minority support bill from Representative Bizon. This bill became more urgent as a result of the Court of Appeals decision in Weaver v Giffels. There was discussion if the bill addressed all the possible contingencies as it relates to child support. Kent made a motion to go forward and ask Stephanie to seek a sponsor, Tina Yost seconded. Motion passed 15-1.
- 4) Tenancy by the Entireties draft – the legislative committee will monitor the bill. No position was taken.

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

#### **A. Adoption**

No report.

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

Randy Velzen and Gail Towne discussed the self-represented litigant (SRL) formerly in pro pers. There will be an ad hoc committee on SRL now and Gail will be the chair.

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

No report.

#### **D. Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be at COBO Center on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10 am. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

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

Liz Bransdorfer indicated that the ICLE Family Law Institute in November conflicts with the AAML national seminar and reported that ICLE had concerns about the effect on it getting speakers.

Liz also made a motion for council to give \$2,500 for new lawyers to attend the ICLE Family Law Institute. Sahera seconded. Motion passed 16-0.

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

Dan Bates was not available but submitted his report prior to the meeting, including the continued issue of domestic violence screening.

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

Friday, June 9, 2017. By invitation only.

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

Anthea and Amy were not available but submitted their report to council prior to the meeting.

Peter reported that the special edition of the journal on LGBTQA is on target and drafts are due this week.

The special edition on Technology is scheduled for October, 2017 and Dick suggested that we contact the technology section of the State Bar.

#### **I. Family Law Journal Advertising**

Kristen discussed advertising for the LGBTQA issue. She made a motion the proceeds from any new advertisers that advertise in the special edition and continue to advertise in subsequent issues, be split equally between the two sections. Kent seconded the motion. The motion passed 14-0 and 2 abstentions.

#### **J. Family Support**

The Michigan Child Support Calculator (CALC) is now available and mandatory for all iv-d users. There will be training to the public at Oakland County FOC on Wednesday, April 19.

The link will be placed on our website to assist with access.

#### **K. Membership**

Steve Reinheimer submitted his report prior to the meeting.

The Section was represented by J. Matt Catchick, Chris Harrington and Steve Reinheimer on March 7 at UDM Law School.

The Section was also represented by J. Matt Catchick, Dick Halloran and Sahera Housey at Wayne State Law School on March 30. Dick reported that it was so successful they were asked to return and, in fact, help with a practice panel.

There was discussion of having a council meeting in the Traverse City area for fall time frame. Shelley Kester is working on this.

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

Kristen Robinson reported she secured Punta de Mita in Mexico for February 3 thru February 10, 2018. All the rooms will be an ocean view. She also explained all the amenities the resort offers as it is a surfing community.

Liz Bransdorfer made a motion to authorize Kristen to sign the contract once it is reviewed and meets Kristen's recommendations, Kent seconded. Motion passed 16-0.

Liz Bransdorfer reported the mid-summer conference will be held at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. The dates are July 20 – 23, 2017. It is a great event to take your family and make it a family vacation.

**M. Political Action Committee**

Matt Catchick reported that this is a new year and gently reminded members to contribute.

**N. QDRO/Taxation**

Bob Treat was not available.

**O. Technology/Social Media**

No report.

**P. Collaborative Law**

No report.

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

- A. SCAO Forms Committee** – Kent reported there are no significant changes to the forms committee, however, SCAO is looking at forms for separate maintenance and for Paternity and ROPA in the next year.
- B. Twenty Year Review** – John Schrot and Dick Halloran reported the material was provided to council, including material from Scott Bassett. The goal would be to provide a non-rotating bench.
- C. Parenting Time Solutions**– Kent reported the committee is working on a survey for: attorneys, judges/referees, mental health professionals, for practitioners, for adults who went through divorce as children. Kent also discussed when the subcommittee would meet. This would provide some frame work to address various parenting time solutions.
- D. E-Filing Issues** – No report.
- E. Public Relations Committee** – No report.
- F. Self-Represented Litigants** – this was addressed as part of ADR for this meeting.
- G. Judicial Response Committee** – No report.

#### **V. Announcements**

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

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

May 6, 2017, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor  
June 3, 2017, University Club, Lansing

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey