

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: May 6, 2017

Place: Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

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 (19) council members were present: Daniel Bates, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Robert Treat, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost.

Council member absent: Jennifer Johnsen and Randy Velzen.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Barbara Kelly, Elizabeth Sadowski, Ross Stancati, and Amy Yu.

Guests: Lori Buiteweg, Carlos Dominguez (guest) Lisa Geherin, Melissa Heffner, Paul Kulas (guest), Anita Scott-Meisel, Steven Heisler, and John Schrot.

B. Chair Report:

Dick Halloran welcomed everyone and indicated this would be his last meeting. Kent will chair the June meeting.

He also thanked everyone for their tremendous work, dedication and experience of council. As of next year, he will remain as the liaison to MJA and he will be the chair of the LGBTQA committee.

Dick discussed his chair message in the April issue and taking proofs.

He will be testifying before the Judiciary in two weeks on parenting time and out committee is still committed to working on parenting solutions.

We will need a new chair for the legislative committee as Kent will be the Chair of the section.

We will need a new chair for advertising as Kristen will be termed out.

Council members are required to write an article for the Journal.

The June/July issue of the Journal is dedicated to LGBTQA.

C. Approval of Minutes

Sahera Housey made a motion to approve the April 1, 2017 minutes. Tina Yost seconded and the motion passed.

D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

Bob Treat indicated that the mid-winter conference was successful and made over \$250 in revenue. Sahera Housey made a motion to adopt the report. Peter Kulas seconded and the motion passed.

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

The Amicus committee reported there were no new amicus requests. It does not appear that the Allard decision is being appealed after remand. The Probate Section is looking at legislation to overturn Allard and asking if the Family Law Section would agree.

If you have questions or comments about the uniform law commission, please contact Lori Buiteweg.

B. Court Rules

Chris Harrington reported on the following:

- 1) ADM File No. 2013-38 – Modification of MRPC 1.5 – effective May 1, 2017, enhanced fees, value added, etc. is not allowed.
- 2) ADM File No. 2016-41 –This addresses unbundling of legal services, limited scope representation and limited appearances. The report outlined many issues members should be mindful of in light of this possible change. Comment period expires on August 1, 2017
- 3) ADM File No. 2016-12; MCR 3.206 – This amendment would eliminate the requirement of including the minor child's birthdate in the Verified Complaint for Divorce but still remain in the Verified Statement. Chris Harrington made a motion to support this amendment, Kent Weichmann seconded. After much discussion, the motion failed, 4 to 14. A second motion was made to oppose

this legislation by Liz Bransdorfer and seconded by Shelley Kester. This motion passed 14 to 1 and 3 abstentions.

4) ADM File 2017-06; MCR 7.300 – Discussion only.

5) Discussion of dower, no court rules has been proposed yet.

C. Legislation

Kent Weichmann discussed amendments to MCL 750.136c and MCL 710.55(3), although a report was submitted, no vote was taken to allow Dion Roddy, the liaison on adoptions to make comments.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

No report.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

A report was submitted by the committee.

C. Alternative Family

The June/July issue is dedicated to alternative families.

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. The dinner will be more expensive because the location in Detroit. We will have a full breakfast on Thursday morning.

E. CLE/ICLE

Lisa Geherin from ICLE indicated that the Family Law Institute is completely planned and will be held on November 9 & 10, 2017 at Suburban Showplace in Novi. Some of the topics include ROPA and ethics.

Council meeting will be on Friday, November 10, 2017 at following ICLE.

F. Collaborative Law

Jim Chryssikos reported there was discussion about having a dedicated standing article in the Family Law Journal to Collaborative Law.

Jim also made a motion to request an ethics opinion on whether an attorney promoting themselves as practicing collaborative law must sign a participation agreement with a disqualification clause consistent with UCLA and the proposed collaborative court rules, the motion was seconded by Tina Yost. Motion passed.

G. Domestic Violence

Dan Bates reported there is continued discussion of the screening standards. Appears that some cases proceed to mediation whether there was or wasn't DV screening.

H. Family Court Forum

Friday, June 9, 2017, invitations went out.

I. Family Law Journal

Anthea and Amy encouraged ads for the June/July special edition.

The special edition on Technology is scheduled for October, 2017.

J. Family Law Journal Advertising

Kristen reported that the revenue has been declining, including the revenue from the Great Lakes Honor Roll.

She is following up with advertisers for the special edition.

K. Family Support

No report.

L. Membership

Steve Reinheimer submitted his report prior to the meeting. The section has almost 2,800 members.

The committee ordered pens.

Shelley Kester indicated we are getting a good response for attendance if we held a council meeting in the Traverse City area.

M. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Kristen Robinson reported the state bar insurance carrier excludes Mexico.

She explained the many options that are available and she is working diligently to get it corrected. She will have an e-blast for the midwinter seminar in a few weeks.

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.

The flyer is in the mail and it includes speaker information. You can receive the discounted rate for up to 3 days before and 3 days after the seminar to make it a longer family vacation.

N. Parenting Solutions

Dick reported that Sahera is now a co-chair with Kent and Vanessa on this committee. The co-chairs will continue to work and asked for assisting in obtaining information on how to best serve families and working on reviewing parenting time. A list was circulated for members to join this committee. The committee would provide some frame work to address various parenting time solutions.

O. Political Action Committee

Matt Catchick reported that this is a new year and gently reminded members to contribute. He also explained the importance of PAC.

P. QDRO/Taxation

Bob Treat reported the pro bono initiative did more than 50 this year and approximately \$25,000 in services.

He also reported to review the case of Joughin which addresses the statute of limitations and QDROs.

Q. Technology/Social Media

No report.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. SCAO Forms Committee** – Amy Yu reported that many of the forms that are currently being reviewed are not for practioners.

- B. Twenty Year Review** – A report was submitted. John Schrot and Dick Halloran requested reviewing the report to discuss a position going forward.
- C. E-Filing Issues** – Image Soft has been chosen to provide State wide e-filing system.
- D. Public Relations Committee** – No report.
- E. Judicial Response Committee** – No report.
- F. Self-Represented Litigants** – Discussion took place about a possible ad-hoc committee on immigration law.

V. Announcements

VI. Future Meetings

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

June 3, 2017, University Club, Lansing

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey