

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: June 2, 2018

Place: University Club, Lansing

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

The council was called to order by Kent Weichmann.

The following (18) council members were present: Sean Blume, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Matt Catchick, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jim Chryssikos, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas-Dominguez, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost-Johnson.

Council members absent: Shon Cook, Mike Golematis, and Robert Treat.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Elizabeth Sadowski.

Guests: Steve Heisler, Dion Roddy, Stephanie Johnson, and Joe Hohler.

B. Introductions.

C. Chair Report:

1. The annual report to the State Bar was prepared and forwarded by the Section Chair. This report summarizes the activity and accomplishments of the Section Committees throughout the fiscal year.
2. There will be a presentation at the NEXT Conference Annual Meeting addressing the intersection of Family Law and Immigration. This will be a special presentation during the annual Family Law Section meeting on Thursday morning, September 27, 2018.
3. Shon Cook has resigned from Council and her seat will be filled at the September meeting. Council appreciated and thanked her for her service to the Section.

D. Approval of Minutes

Chris Harrington made a motion to approve the May 5, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded and was passed.

E. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to a misallocation of "plaque & recognition" funds. The motion passed.

F. Corresponding Secretary

No report.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. **Amicus** – no report.

B. **Court Rules** – no report.

C. Legislation –

1. **Senate Joint Resolution Q.** There is a proposal to amend the state constitution to require consideration of the best interest factors in all termination cases, custody cases, and out-of-home placement cases. A motion was made to oppose this proposal. After discussion, the Legislative Committee gave a thorough review and recommended that Council oppose it because this is an issue that would better be handled by statute, and not through an amendment to the state constitution. Council voted to support this motion 17-0 (one voting member was not available at the time of the vote).
2. **HB 4891.** This proposal would decriminalize eavesdropping by a parent against their minor children, with some specific exceptions. Since the last meeting, the Legislative Committee has made some adjustments to the proposed language regarding the label of the "parent", and whether it should read "custodial parent" or just "parent." A motion was made that section (E)(iii) of the bill should read "The other custodial parent, unless authorized by a court." The motion was seconded, and Council voted to support the motion by a vote of 11-5-2.
3. **Child Marriage Law.** The Legislative Committee discussed the issue of child marriage at its meeting, and a motion was

made to the Council seeking approval for the Committee to work on drafting a proposal to amend the current laws on child marriage. Council voted in favor of this request, and the Committee will add this item to its agenda for the upcoming 2018-19 year.

D. Shared Parenting Bill

The Committee is working up its draft of the “Simple” version of an alternative piece of legislation to HB 4691.

A motion was made to add language of a “Notice Requirement” which would mandate the court to provide notice to both parties of their rights under the law on pursuing custody. The motion was seconded. The Committee was undecided on the most appropriate placement of the notice requirement – Summons, Statute, Court Rule – and was seeking Council’s input on placement and content of this language in the alternative legislation. Council provided some feedback on the substance of this language and voted unanimously to support the inclusion of a notice requirement and to let the Committee develop where this notice will appear.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

A written report was submitted by Dion Roddy.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

No report.

C. Alternative Family

No report.

D. Annual Meeting

No report. Reserve your rooms now because this is Art Prize weekend.

E. CLE/ICLE

The Family Law Institute brochure is now being distributed. The November Council meeting will follow the conclusion of the Friday session of the FLI on November 16, 2018.

F. Collaborative Law

No report.

G. Domestic Violence

No report.

H. Family Court Forum

It will be 6/8/2018 at Travis Pointe Country Club, this coming Friday. Topic will be: “Children Who Resist Parenting”

I. Family Law Journal

Articles for the August/September edition are to be submitted by July 15, 2018.

J. Family Law Journal Advertising

Journal is offering a 10% discount for advertisers who pre-pay for a full year.

K. Family Support

No report.

L. Membership

Young Lawyers Summit is scheduled for 6/15 – 6/17 at Boyne Highlands; the FLS will be a “silver” sponsor this year. Shelly Kester will be presenting on the “ABC’s” of Divorce.

M. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

Mid-Winter: Kristen Robinson is working on online registration issues for 2019 conference, which will take place in Costa Rica. There are a limited number of spots and online registration process will need to coordinate this.

Mid-Summer: Reminder: will be 7/19-7/22 at Boyne Mountain. Online registration is available. E-Blast for invites went out on 6/1/2018. Registration cut-off is 7/13/2018.

N. Political Action Committee

No report.

O. QDRO/Taxation

No report.

P. Technology/Social Media

No report.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

A. SCAO Forms Committee

No report.

B. Twenty Year Review

No report.

C. Public Relations Committee

No report.

D. Judicial Response Committee

No Report

E. Self-Represented Litigants

No Report

V. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS

VI. Future Meetings

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

September 27, 2018 – Grand Rapids (Annual Meeting)

VII. Adjournment at 11:03am

Respectfully submitted – Christopher Harrington