

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: June 3, 2017

Place: University Club, Lansing

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair-elect Kent Weichmann welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

The following (18) council members were present: Daniel Bates, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Christopher Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Peter Kulas, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Robert Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Hon. Tina Yost.

Council member absent: Richard Halloran, Mathew Kobliska and Amy Spilman.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Elizabeth Sadowski and Ross Stancati.

Guests: Hon. Douglas Dosson, Steven Heisler, John Mertz, Dion Roddy, and Stephanie Johnson.

B. Chair Report:

Kent welcomed everyone on behalf of Richard Halloran who was unable to attend the meeting.

Kent explained the latest with deportation and enforcement at courthouses for witness or parties. Kent made a motion to sign on a letter objecting to this. Dan Bates seconded. The motion passes 13-3. Only 16 members were present at the time of this vote.

Kent also provided the dates for next 2017-2018 council meetings.

The October meeting will be held at the Hotel Indigo in Traverse City instead of Park Place as indicated in printed schedule.

C. Approval of Minutes

Sahera Housey made a motion to approve the May 6, 2017 minutes. Liz Bransdorfer seconded and the motion passed.

D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee

Bob Treat was not present and Liz Bransdorfer made a motion to table Bob's report. The Motion passed.

E. Corresponding Secretary

Liz Bransdorfer discussed the monthly article in the State Bar Journal and 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 they are working on Allard issue. Another case similar to Allard is waiting to see if leave to the court of appeals is granted.

B. Court Rules

Chris Harrington reported on the following:

- 1) ADM File No. 2016-41 (MCR 1.0, 1.2, 4.2 and 4.3. MCR 2.107, 2.117 and 6.001). This addresses unbundling of legal services, limited scope representation and limited appearances. Chris asked that any other comments be sent to him within 7 days. There will be an e-vote later in June or July. State bar voted to support this proposed court rule amendment.
- 2) ADM File No. 2017-06; MCR 7.300 et seq. – These are continued discussion on amendments that are administrative in nature. The court rules committee recommended that council oppose the language providing for a “vexatious litigator”. Chris made a motion to oppose the language as approved by the committee. Liz Bransdorfer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. Legislation

Kent Weichmann discussed the status of HB 4691. There was lengthy discussion and council believed it would be up for a vote the following Tuesday. Kent made a motion that the council oppose HB 4691 and include reasons as indicated by the legislative committee as well as any other reasons after additional review. Dan Bates seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption

Dion Roddy submitted a report. He discussed criminalizing rehoming. Kent Weichmann made a motion to approve proposed amendment to MCL 750.136, the motion was seconded by Kristen Robinson. After discussion, it was decided that the motion would be broken into subparts of the statute. A motion to approve amendment to MCL 750.136c passed 13 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions. This did not include MCL 750.136c(3)(a).

Motion to approve amendment to MCL 750.136c(3)(b) was made by Jim Chryssikos and seconded by Shelley Kester. After much discussion, Randy Velzen called the question, Sahera Housey seconded which resulted in 15 voted in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained.

Randy Velzen then made a motion to approve amendment to MCL 750.136c(3)(a), Jim Chryssikos seconded. The motion failed 8 approved, 9 opposed.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

A report was submitted by the committee.

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

ICLE Family Law Institute will be held November 9 & 10, 2017 at Suburban Showplace in Novi. Notices went out.

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

F. Collaborative Law

Jim Chryssikos submitted his report prior to the meeting.

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. He is still hoping for more domestic violence awareness.

H. Family Court Forum

Friday, June 9, 2017.

I. Family Law Journal

Anthea reported they are working on the special edition and can still include advertisers.

J. Family Law Journal Advertising

Kristen was happy to report that she had two new advertisers. Council is still looking for someone to replace her for journal advertising.

K. Family Support

Kent indicated that if you see any errors in CALC to report them to Bill Bartels at SCAO.

L. Membership

Steve Reinheimer indicated he will submit an e-vote for SBM Family Law Section lapel pins. He also suggested a slide show at ICLE.

M. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

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.

There will be a special presentation on LGBTQA on Saturday afternoon.

Kristen Robinson said the contract for midwinter was signed on May 31, 2017. There were still some issues that she is working on with Cliff Flood.

An e-blast will be sent to advertise the seminar.

Kristen also indicated it is practice that the chair attend the midwinter conference and that the section pays a stipend. Kristen made the motion, Sahera seconded. The motion passed 17, 0 opposed. Chair elect abstained.

N. Parenting Solutions

Sahera the tri-chairs will continue to work and asked for assisting in obtaining information on how to best serve families and working on reviewing parenting time. HB 4691 was discussed earlier.

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 acknowledged the work of our lobbyist, Stephanie Johnson. He also thanked the members who have already contributed.

P. QDRO/Taxation

No report.

Q. Technology/Social Media

No report.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

A. SCAO Forms Committee – No report.

B. Twenty Year Review – Tina Yost reported that Scott Bassett has been working on proposed legislation and to address the intent and creation of Family court.

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 – No report.

V. Announcements – Peter Kulas has a new book *Aberration*.

VI. Future Meetings

2017-18 Council year meeting schedule

October 14, 2017 - Hotel Indigo, Traverse City at 9:30 am.
November 10, 2017 – Suburban Showplace, Novi at 1 pm.
December 2, 2017 – University Club, Lansing at 9:30 am.
January 6, 2018 – Weber’s Inn, Ann Arbor at 9:30 am.
February 3-10, 2018 – Midwinter conference.
March 3, 2018 – Doubletree, Novi at 9:30 am.
April 7, 2018– University Club, Lansing at 9:30 am.
May 5, 2018 – Amway Grand, Grand Rapids at 9:30 am.
June 2, 2018 – Weber’s Inn, Ann Arbor at 9:30 am.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey