

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
FAMILY LAW COUNCIL**

MINUTES

Date: September 12, 2020
Location: Zoom
Time: Immediately following Annual Meeting

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Call to Order/ Quorum

The council was called to order by Chair, Sahera Housey.

B. Introduction of Council Members – item skipped due to introductions at Annual Meeting

The following (20) council members were present: Sean Blume, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Christopher Harrington, Steve Heisler, Joe Hohler, III, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Peter Kulas-Dominguez, Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, Anthea Papista, Randall Pitler, Kristen Robinson, Liisa Speaker, Amy Spilman, Gail Towne, Randy Velzen, Donald Wheaton, Hon. Tina Yost Johnson.

Chairperson Sahera Housey was present.

Council members absent: Matt Catchick

C. Election of Officers

1. Recording Secretary: Liisa Speaker
2. Corresponding Secretary: Kristen Robinson
3. Treasurer: Shelley Kester
4. Chair Elect: Christopher Harrington

D. Chair Report: Deferred to October meeting

E. Recording Secretary Report: Deferred to October meeting

F. Treasurer's Report: Deferred to October meeting

II. KEY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Amicus – Anne Argiroff/Gail Towne: Deferred to October meeting

- B. **Court Rules/Ethics. Jenny Johnsen/Peter Kulas-Dominguez.** Peter noted that there is an impending action item that requires the committee's attention. He will send out the meeting notice and agenda to committee members.
 - C. **Legislative – James Chryssikos/Randy Velzen, Co-Chairs. No Report**
- III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (any written committee reports since June 2020 meeting have been circulated; oral reports will be deferred to October meeting)
- A. **Adoption – Dion Roddy** No Report
 - B. **ADR/Collaborative – Randy Pitler** No Report
 - C. **Annual Meeting – Chris Harrington** No Report
 - D. **CLE/ICLE – Shon Cook/Liz Bransdorfer** No Report
 - E. **Dedicated Family Court – Tina Yost-Johnson/Liz Bransdorfer** No Report
 - F. **Domestic Violence – Rebecca Shiemke** No Report
 - G. **Family Court Forum – Sahera Housey** No meeting to discuss next session until 2021.
 - H. **Family Law Journal – Anthea Papista/Amy Spilman** No Report
 - I. **Family Law Journal Advertising – Sean Blume** No Report
 - J. **Family Support – Kent Weichmann/Carlo Martina** No Report
 - K. **Member Education and Public Relations – Shelley Kester/Liisa Speaker**
 - L. **Membership – Steve Reinheimer** Good entry level committee for getting involved and networking with council members and section members. Committee is in a challenging time as this committee has historically been event driven. Anyone with an interest in marketing should consider joining this committee.
 - M. **Midwinter/Midsummer – Kristen Robinson/Liz Bransdorfer** 2021 Midwinter Conference was not scheduled due to pandemic. Look forward to 2022.
 - N. **Political Action Committee – Matt Catchick.** Ross Stancati stated that every council member has to contribute to PAC – its and unwritten rule. Our lobbyist has made recommendations for donations to certain legislators. Personal checks only, made payable to Family Law PAC.
 - O. **QDRO/Taxation - Bob Treat** No Report
 - P. **Listserv/Website - Liz Sadowski** No Report

IV. AD HOC COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

- A. SCAO Child Support – Kent Weichmann/Carlo Martina. No report
- B. SCAO Forms – Amy Yu/Gail Towne, Co-Chairs. No report
- C. SCAO Parenting Time Guidelines – Shelley Kester. No report
- D. Children's Law Section (Chris Piatkowski) – No report
- E. Committee on Civil Procedure & Courts (liaison requested) – No report
- F. Law Student Section (inactive per State Bar) - No report
- G. LGBTQ Committee. Peter Kulas-Dominguez. No report
- H. Probate and Estate Planning Section (Patricia Ouellette) – No report
- I. State Bar Board of Commissioners (Judge Shauna Dunnings) – No report

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Sahera thanked all those who ran for council and encouraged everyone to get involved with committee work and attend the council meetings.

All council meetings through December will be held on Zoom. The location of meetings scheduled for 2021 are yet to be determined.

Future Meetings for 2020-2021 Year (networking at 9 am, meeting starts at 9:30 am)

- Saturday, October 3, 2020– Virtual by Zoom
- Saturday, November 7, 2020– Virtual by Zoom
- Saturday, December 5, 2020– Virtual by Zoom
- Saturday, January 9, 2021– Virtual or in person – TBD
- Saturday, March 6, 2021– Virtual or in person – TBD
- Saturday, April 10, 2021– Virtual or in person – TBD
- Saturday, May 1, 2021– Virtual or in person – TBD
- Saturday, June 5, 2021– Virtual or in person – TBD

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Don Wheaton. Second by Joe Hohler. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Robinson, Recording Secretary