

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
FAMILY LAW COUNCIL**

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 12, 2020
Location: Zoom
Time: Networking 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order/ Quorum

The council was called to order by Chair, Elizabeth Bransdorfer.

2. Introduction of Council Members and Determination of Quorum

The following (20) council members were present: Sean Blume, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Christopher Harrington, Joe Hohler, III, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, Anthea Papista, Randall Pitler, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Liisa Speaker, Amy Spilman, Randy Velzen, Donald Wheaton, Hon. Tina Yost Johnson.

Chairperson Elizabeth Bransdorfer was present.

Council members absent: Matt Catchick and Vanessa Moss Wilson

Fifty-three (53) section members were present. A quorum a quorum was declared.

3. Explanation of Voting System: Kristen Robinson

Due to the transition to a virtual Annual Meeting the Section will be using a secure on-line voting platform called OpaVote which will allow us to vote on the bylaws and new council members remotely. Those section members participating in the Zoom meeting will receive a link to vote in the “chat” feature of Zoom which will take them to an online ballot where all votes will be cast.

4. Amendment of Bylaws: Christopher Harrington

- A. Section 3 .3 - add liaison from LGBTQA Section to Council
- B. Section 3.8 - correct typographical errors
- C. Section 4.1 - correct typographical error
- D. Section 5.2 - correct description of responsibilities of the Chairperson-elect
- E. Section 5 .3 - correct description of responsibilities of the Recording-Secretary
- F. Section 5.4 - correct description of responsibilities of the Corresponding Secretary
- G. Section 6.4 - update meeting schedule to eliminate reference to a SBM meeting that is no longer held
- H. Section 6.11 - correct description of Council member duties and responsibilities
- I. Section 7 .1 - designate responsibility for planning the annual meeting

5. Election of Council Members

A. Introduction of and comments by candidate Section members who have submitted applications by the deadline

1. Sean A. Blume (incumbent)
2. Shon A. Cook (incumbent)
3. Steven A. Heisler
4. Ashish Joshi
5. Shelley Kester (incumbent)
6. Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop
7. Peter M. Kulas-Dominguez
8. Joshua Pease
9. Amy M. Spilman (incumbent)
10. Alicia Storm
11. Gail Towne

B. Nominations from the floor were sought; none received. Comments from meeting attendings in support of candidates.

6. Vote on Bylaws and Council Members

7. **Program:** Various Committee Chairs discussed their Committee, what it does and what they anticipate being important for the 2020-21 Council Year; Section members are encouraged to join Committees that interest them. All Committees need more people to participate. A list of the Section committees can be found on the agenda for the monthly council meeting to follow and on the Section website.

8. Election Results:

Bylaws: All proposed changes to the Bylaws passed.

Seven (7) Council Members Elected to a three (3) year term:

Sean A. Blume (incumbent)
Shon A. Cook (incumbent)
Steven A. Heisler
Shelley Kester (incumbent)
Peter M. Kulas-Dominguez
Amy M. Spilman (incumbent)
Gail Towne

9. Announcements:

Liz Bransdorfer commented on her term as Chair and thanked Council and Section members who helped her along the way. Sahera Housey is incoming Chair. There will be a brief regular Council meeting following the Annual Meeting. It has a separate agenda. The next regular council meeting will be held via Zoom on October 3, 2020.

Sahera Housey praised Liz Bransdorfer for her hard work as Chair and for her commitment to the Section and to Family Law. Her leadership and dedication have been invaluable. All hope that she remains active in Council as we need her knowledge and work ethic.

Peter Kulas-Dominguez added that having Liz at the helm during this crazy time has been a blessing to us all. Also, his new book is coming out soon.

10. **Adjournment** – Liz Bransdorfer adjourned the Annual meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Robinson, Recording Secretary