

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
FAMILY LAW SECTION COUNCIL

Date: September 17, 2022
Location: St. Johns Resort, Plymouth, Michigan
Time: 11:43 AM

MINUTES

I. Administrative Matters

A. Attendees

1. *Council members present:* Shelly Kester (Chair), Kristen Robinson (Chair-Elect), Liisa Speaker (Treasurer), Don Wheaton (Corresponding Secretary), Josh Pease (Recording Secretary), Randy Pitler, Keela Johnson, Amy Spilman, Peter Kulas-Dominguez, Gail Towne, Steve Reinheimer, Steve Heisler, Hon. Tina Yost Johnson, Sean Blume, Alicia Storm, Kristen Wolfram, Jim Chrissykos, Cara Willing, Michelle LeTourneau, Hon. Carla Testani
2. *Council members absent:* Mat Kobliska
3. *Ex officio:* Chris Harrington, Sahera Housey, Liz Bransdorfer, Liz Sadowski, Amy Yu, Susan Paletz
4. *Section Members:* Laura Nieusma, Jordan Ahlers, Kathleen Allen, Dion Roddy, Melissa Kelleigh, Julie Griffiths, Emily Calabrese, Peter Conway, Peter Alle, Amanda Paletz
5. *Guests:* Alexandria Sharp (law student), Stephanie Johnson (lobbyist), Deb Conway, Diane Siegel, Dr. Holly Hale

- B. Outgoing Chair Harrington called the meeting to order at 11:43 AM and found quorum with 20 council members present. Harrington passed the gavel to incoming Chair Kester.

C. *Officer elections:*

1. Kristen Robinson was nominated for chair-elect by Wheaton. Yost Johnson moved to close nominations, and Wheaton seconded. Robinson elected by acclamation.
 2. Liisa Speaker was nominated for treasurer by Robinson. Wheaton moved to close nominations, and Yost Johnson seconded. Speaker elected by acclamation.
 3. Don Wheaton was nominated for corresponding secretary by Robinson. Kester moved to close nominations. Wheaton elected by acclamation.
 4. Peter Kulas-Dominguez was nominated for recording secretary by Wheaton. Josh Pease was nominated for recording secretary by Yost Johnson. Wheaton moved to close nominations, and Yost Johnson seconded. Pease was elected as recording secretary.
- D. *Recording Secretary*: Minutes from the June 4, 2022 council meeting were circulated. Wheaton moved to approve, and Storm seconded. Council unanimously approved.
- E. *Corresponding Secretary*: No report
- F. *Treasurer*: No report

II. Key Committee Reports

- A. *Legislative Committee*: Discussion of HBs 6290, 6291, and 6292, which would amend procedures for videorecorded forensic interviews. Chryssikos moved to support the bills with recommendations for clarification of storage of videorecorded interviews (who will store, who will pay for storage, and how long they will be stored) and to add language requiring both the child and the interviewer to be in view of the camera during the interview. Blume seconded. Council approved 19-0-1 (Kulas-Dominguez).

Stephanie Johnson reported that the surrogacy bill will be introduced this week, that the dedicated family court bill is being circulated, and that very little will happen the rest of the year with few session days left for the legislature.

- B. *Amicus*: No report. One pending request.

C. *Court Rules*: No report

D. *Dedicated Family Court*: Supreme Court hasn't taken up proposed court rules yet. The family division judge listserv is very close to going live.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. *Adoption*: Committee is working on setting up an ad hoc committee to consider adoption code revisions. Committee members will be working with the Safe Delivery of Newborns Law committee through Children's Law Section. Committee is considering the restoration of parental rights bill.

B. *ADR/Collaborative*: No report

C. *Annual Meeting*: No report

D. *CLE/ICLE*: No report

E. *Domestic Violence*: No report

F. *Family Court Forum*: No report

G. *Family Law Journal*: No report

H. *Family Law Journal Advertising*: No report

I. *Family Support*: Yu reported from the first meeting of the Michigan Child Support quadrennial review. Kent Weichmann had circulated an email with a list of suggestions for support revisions. Looking for input from practitioners. Will be meeting monthly for a year, with consensus by September 2023.

J. *Member Education and Public Relations*: No report

K. *Membership*: No report. Reinheimer stated that the committee will be circulating event dates.

L. *Midsummer/Midwinter*: Robinson reported that contract signed for the midwinter conference at Chable Maroma in Punta Maroma, Mexico, January 21-28, 2023. She is waiting for the State Bar to complete registration. An e-blast will go out very soon.

Bransdorfer reported that there were 69 attendees at the midsummer conference, the most ever. Total revenue was \$26,800. Some volunteer speakers have been lined up for the 2023 conference, which will be the first full week of August at Mission Point.

M. *PAC*: No report: Unclear if Matt Catchick will continue as chair.

N. *QDRO/Taxation*: No report. Unclear if Jenny Johnsen will continue as chair.

O. *Technology/Social Media*: Heisler has updated the mission statement on the website.

IV. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

A. *GAL Committee*: No report

B. *SCAO Forms*: No report

C. *Shared Parenting*: No report

V. Liaison Reports

A. *Children's Law Section*: Annual meeting is Thursday, September 22 by Zoom. All CLS members are welcome to attend. Heisler and Yost Johnson are both running for council seats.

B. *LGBTQA Section*: No report

C. *Probate and Estate Planning Section*: No report

D. *Board of Commissioners*: No report

VI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:21 PM.