

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
Date: September 21, 2019
Place: Crowne Plaza, Lansing**

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

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

The following council members were present: Sean Blume, Liz Bransdorfer, Matt Catchick, Jim Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Chris Harrington, Joe Hohler, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Mathew Kobliska, Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Randy Pitler, Steve Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Liisa Speaker, Amy Spilman, Randy Velzen, Don Wheaton, and Hon. Tina Yost-Johnson.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Robert Treat, Scott Bassett, Elizabeth Sadowski, and Peter Kulas-Dominguez.

Guests: Christine Piatkowski (Children's Law Section Liaison), Vicki Sherman, Rachel Gruetzner.

B. Welcome to New and Returning Council Members. Matt Catchick, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Anthea Papista, Kristen Robinson, Liisa Speaker and Randy Velzen.

C. Election of Officers.

1. Chair Elect – Sahera Housey
2. Treasurer – Chris Harrington
3. Corresponding Secretary – Shelley Kester
4. Recording Secretary – Kristen Robinson

D. Chair Report: Deferred to October meeting.

E. Recording Secretary Report/Approval of Minutes: Deferred to October meeting.

F. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee: Deferred to October meeting.

II. Key Committee Reports:

Amicus and Legislation – Some reports circulated in writing; oral reports deferred to October meeting.

Court Rules - Jennifer Johnsen reported that the Representative Assembly is considering an amendment to MCR 3.206, changing "plaintiff" and "defendant" to "petitioner" and "respondent". Mathew Kobliska reported that the proposal was originally prepared by a joint effort in 2014 between the Family Law Section and the ADR Section and was approved by both sections at that time. Because council already voted to support the amendment to MCR 3.206, no action by council is required. Mathew Kobliska, Matt Catchick and Elizabeth Kitchen Troop are scheduled to address the Representative Assembly on this issue at the next Rep Assembly meeting.

III. Standing Committee Reports – Some reports circulated in writing; oral reports deferred to October meeting.

- A. Adoption
- B. Alternative Dispute Resolution/Collaborative
- C. Alternative Family
- D. Annual Meeting
- E. CLE/ICLE
- F. Domestic Violence
- G. Family Court Forum
- H. Family Law Journal
- I. Family Law Journal Advertising
- J. Family Support
- K. Membership
- L. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars
- M. Political Action Committee
- N. QDRO/Taxation
- O. Technology/Social Media

IV. Ad Hoc Committees –Some reports circulated in writing; oral reports deferred to October meeting.

- A. SCAO Child Support – Kent Weichmann/Carlo Martina
- B. SCAO Forms Committee - Amy Yu/Gail Towne
- C. SCAO Parenting Time Guidelines – Shelley Kester
- D. Twenty Year Review - Tina Yost-Johnson/Liz Bransdorfer

V. Liaisons – Some reports circulated in writing; oral reports deferred to October meeting.

- A. Children’s Law Section (Chris Piatkowski)
- B. Committee on Civil Procedure & Courts (liaison requested)
- C. Law Student Section (inactive per State Bar)
- D. LGBTQA Section (proposed)
- E. Probate and Estate Planning Section (liaison requested)
- F. State Bar Board of Commissioners (Victoria Radke)

VI. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS - none

VII. Next Meetings

- Saturday, October 5, 2019 – Double Tree, Novi
- Saturday, November 2, 2019 – in Grand Rapids (Amway Grand)
- Saturday, December 7, 2019 – in Ann Arbor (Weber’s)
- Saturday, January 18, 2020 – in Grand Rapids (DoubleTree)
- Skip February – Mid-Winter Conference
- Saturday, March 7, 2020 – in Ann Arbor (Weber’s)
- Saturday, April 4, 2020 – in Lansing (Crowne Plaza)
- Saturday, May 2, 2020 – in Novi (DoubleTree)
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 – in Battle Creek (TBD)

VIII. Adjournment at 12:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Robinson, Recording Secretary