

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

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

The council was called to order by Chair, Robert Treat.

B. Introductions and Attendees

The following (18) council members were present: Sean Blume, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matt Catchick, James Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Christopher Harrington, Joe Hohler, III, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Shelley Kester, Matt Kobliska, Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, Peter Kulas -Dominguez, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Randall Pitler, Steven Reinheimer, Liisa Speaker, Amy Spilman, Donald Wheaton, and Hon. Tina Yost-Johnson.

Chairperson Robert Treat and Chris Piatkowski of the Children's Law Section were present.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Justice Elizabeth Clement and Justice Megan Cavanagh, Kristen Robinson, Scott Bassett, Kent Weichmann, Randy Velzen, Amy Yu, Anne Argiroff and Elizabeth Sadowski.

Guests and Council liaisons included: Kristen Wolfram, Vicki Sherman, Rachel Gruetzner and were present.

C. Amendment of the Bylaws:

Chris Harrington explained the proposed changes to the Bylaws to Sections 4.3 (voting rights of Chair), 6.1 (recurring expenditures) and 6.3 (Council member attendance).

Section 4.3 was amended, on a vote of 56/2, to read:

SECTION 4.3. At the end of his or her term in office, the Chairperson-Elect, if still a member of the Section in good standing, shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson without being nominated or elected, and shall have all the rights and privileges of Council membership during that term of office. The rights and privileges held by the Chairperson shall include all voting rights necessary to make or break a tie on any Council vote, irrespective of whether the Chairperson remains one of the twenty-one (21) voting members of Council as defined in Section 3.1.

Section 6.1 was amended on a vote of 55/3, to read:

SECTION 6.1. The Council shall have the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan, the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, and the Bylaws of this Section. The Council shall specifically authorize all commitments or contracts which entail the payment of money, including the expenditure of all monies appropriated by the Council for the use or benefit of this section, provided, however, the Council may authorize the Treasurer to expend sums not exceeding \$100.00 for the ongoing operation of this Section without prior approval. All sums so expended shall be specifically reported by the Treasurer at the next Council meeting. The Treasurer shall be authorized to conduct routine business transactions that are necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Section and the Council, as defined in Section 1.2. Any routine and necessary business transactions that are not previously authorized by a vote of the Council shall be reported in the next available Treasurer's report, and approval of the Treasurer's report at any Council meeting shall serve as Council's authorization of the reported expenses.

Section 6.3 was amended on a vote of 56/2, to read:

SECTION 6.3. Any member of a standing or special committee who shall be absent, without having been excused by its chair, from three consecutive meetings of such committee or subcommittee, may be deemed to have resigned and the vacancy thereby created may be filled by appointment by the Section Chairperson for the unexpired term. Any member of the Council who shall have three (3) unexcused absences from Council meetings in a year shall be deemed to have resigned, and a vacancy thereby created. A "year" shall commence with the first regular Council meeting held in conjunction with the Family Law Section Annual Meeting and continuing until the last regular meeting of Council for that year, as established under Section 6.10 of these bylaws. Any vacancy of a Council Member created under Section 6.3 shall be filled by the Council, and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall hold that elected position until the vacant term expires.

D. Election of Council Members

Matthew Catchick, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnson, Anthea Papista, Kristen Robinson, Liisa Speaker and Randy Velzen were each elected to three year terms based upon most votes for 7 available positions.

II. Program

Tina Yost Johnson, Judge of the Family Division of Calhoun County, and Chair of the 20 Year Review Committee, introduced Scott Basset and John Schrot presented on the original vision for the Family Division. Liz Bransdorfer presented on what has happened in the Family Division since its implementation and Liisa Speaker presented on the problems which remain and ideas for addressing the problems. The audience was invited to comment on problems and solutions to improve the Family Division. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanagh and Justices Elizabeth Clement were thanked for their presence, interest and support of the family court.

III. Announcements/NEW BUSINESS

1. Elizabeth Bransdorfer, the entire Council and those in attendance gave a BIG round of applause in thanks to Bob Treat for doing a superb job as Chairperson this year and keeping the “Council Ship” running smooth. Great work, Bob!!!
2. A brief council meeting for the election of officers follows the Annual Meeting.
3. The LGBTQA Section Annual Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza at 1:00 p.m.
4. The next Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019, at the Doubletree, Novi, Michigan. (Breakfast will be at 9:00 a.m.. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.)

IV. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted – Shelley Kester, Recording Secretary