

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Date: September 22, 2016  
Place: Amway Hotel, Grand Rapids**

**I. Administrative matters**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Richard Halloran welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Twenty council members were present: Dan Bates, Liz Bransdorfer, Carol Breitmeyer, J. Matt Catchick, Jim Chryssikos, Shon Cook, Richard Halloran, Chris Harrington, Sahera Housey, Jennifer Johnsen, Mathew Kobliska, Peter Kulas, Anthea Papista, Steven Reinheimer, Kristen Robinson, Amy Spilman, Bob Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann and Tina Yost.

Council members absent: Vanessa Moss-Williams.

Ex-Officio and former council members: Scott Bassett, Ronald Foon, Traci Rink and Elizabeth Sadowski.

Guests: Christine Cameron, Tim Cordes, Hon. Douglas Dosson, Meletios Golematis, Suzanne Hollyer, Ashley Lowe, Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield, Lorie Savin, Art Spears, and Katie Strickfaden.

**B. Chair Report & Executive Council elections:**

**General meeting elections:**

Seven council members' terms were expired. Those included, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matthew Catchick, Jr., Sahera Housey, Peter Kulas, Anthea Papista, Gail Towne and Kent Weichmann. Gail Towne did not run for her seat.

The general membership voted and the incumbents were re-elected, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, J. Matthew Catchick, Jr., Sahera Housey, Peter Kulas, Anthea Papista, and Kent Weichmann. Jennifer Johnsen is the newest council member.

**Executive Council elections:**

- The election for executive council was as follows:

Recording secretary: Liz Bransdorfer nominated Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann seconded. Bob Treat nominated Sahera Housey, Steve Reinheimer seconded. Nominations were closed. A secret ballot was held and Sahera Housey was elected as recording secretary.

Corresponding secretary: Kent Weichmann nominated Liz Bransdorfer, Sahera Housey seconded. Nominations were closed. Liz Bransdorfer was elected as corresponding secretary.

Treasurer: Kent Weichmann nominated Bob Treat, Sahera Housey seconded. Nominations were closed. Bob Treat was elected as Treasurer.

Chair-Elect: Liz Bransdorfer nominated Kent Weichmann, Sahera Housey seconded. Nominations were closed. Kent Weichmann was elected as Chair-elect.

- Dick reported that he and Liz Bransdorfer testified in Lansing on the new version of HB 4141 and Parental Alienation bills. Dick suggested we work together and set up an ad hoc committee regarding custody and parenting time.
- A 20-year review committee to review how successful the family court has been. What we should do, improvements and accomplishments.
- E-filing committee.
- Dick also suggested members sign up for committees.

### **C. Approval of Minutes**

Amy Spilman moved for approval of the minutes of the June 4, 2016 meeting as circulated. Anthea Papista seconded and the motion carried.

### **D. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee**

Kent indicated that he would have the treasurer's report at the October meeting.

A motion was made to approve 15 scholarships for legal aid attorneys to attend the ICLE Family Law Institute in November. The motion was approved 20-0.

## **II. Key Committee Reports**

### **A. Legislation**

Given as part of the annual meeting

### **B. Court Rules**

Given as part of the annual meeting

### **C. Amicus**

Given as part of the annual meeting

### **III. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **A. Adoption**

No report

#### **B. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Given as part of the annual meeting

#### **C. Alternative Family**

A new section has been formed as part of the State bar: the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Allies Section. Members are encouraged to join. The interim chair is Rick Roane. The section dues are \$45.

#### **D. Annual Meeting**

#### **E. CLE/ICLE**

No report

#### **F. Domestic Violence**

Given as part of the annual meeting

#### **G. Family Court Forum**

No report

#### **H. Family Law Journal**

Anthea reported the journal is being reformatted to 6 issues. She is looking for new authors with diverse topics.

#### **I. Family Law Journal Advertising**

Given as part of the annual meeting

#### **J. Family Support**

The state MiChildSupportCalculator will available to the public to allow parties and attorneys to use the same calculator that the Friend of the Court uses.

**K. Membership**

Given as part of the annual meeting

**L. Political Action Committee**

Ross Stancati reported the importance of PAC contributions. Please send contributions to Co-Chair, J. Matt Catchick. There was over \$25,000 in the budget but because of the election year and contributions to legislators, the balance is close to \$5,000. Contributions are necessary for council to have a voice on issues that impact families and children.

**M. QDRO/Taxation**

No report.

**N. Technology/Social Media**

Given as part of the annual meeting

**O. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars**

No report.

**IV. Ad Hoc Committees**

**A. SCAO Forms Committee**

**B. Comments from Rep Assembly, SBM/ICLE attendee**

**C. Ad Hoc Committees: PR Committee “Mandatory 50/50 Update**

Given as part of the annual meeting

**V. Announcements**

Deborah McNabb is running for Kent County Circuit Court.

Lorie Savin is running for Oakland County Circuit Court.

Tina Yost is running for Calhoun County Circuit Court.

**VI. Future Meetings**

2016-17 Council year meeting schedule

September 21, 2016, annual dinner for council members and past chairs, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids  
September 22, 2016, annual meeting and elections, brief council meeting, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids  
October 8, 2016, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor  
November 11, 2016, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi (following FLI)  
December 10, 2016, Doubletree, Novi  
January 21, 2017, University Club, Lansing  
February 4-11, 2017 Mid-winter, no council meeting  
March 4, 2017, Doubletree, Novi  
April 1, 2017, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids  
May 6, 2017, Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor  
June 3, 2017, University Club, Lansing

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted – Sahera Housey