

MINUTES – FAMILY LAW COUNCIL, FAMILY LAW SECTION

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Doubletree Hotel, Novi, MI

Attendance:

- **Council Members Present (19):** Anne Argiroff, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Carol Breitmeyer, Neil Colman, Richard Halloran, James Harrington III, Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop, Donna Mobilia, Philip Navarre, Antoinette Raheem, Traci Rink, Rebecca Shiemke, Liisa Speaker, Connie Thacker, Gail Towne, Robert Treat, Kent Weichmann, Stacy Van Dyken, Amy Yu
- **Ex Officio & past Council Members:** Elizabeth Sadowski
- **Guests:** Liane Kutchock, John Schrot, Bill Kandler, Mathew Kobliska

I. Administrative Matters

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.
- B. **Chairperson's Report – Amy Yu:**
 - 1. The Parliamentarian's Report was shared with council members and reviewed.
 - 2. The Family Law Institute is Nov. 11, 12. The Section will have a table to sign up new members, collect for PAC and offer the GAL handbook for sale.
 - 3. Family Law Journal. Council has been paying Scott Bassett to write up case summaries. Bylaws prohibit council from paying for articles. Council voted unanimously that the Amicus Committee will write up case summaries for the Journal instead of S. Bassett. Council also voted unanimously to pay S. Bassett for case summaries already submitted.
- C. **Recording Secretary Report** – Minutes from September 30, 2010 adopted.
- D. **Treasurer's Report** – Ledgers and balance sheets provided. Liz Sadowski questioned why Council is charged \$75 per e-blast. Council voted unanimously that L. Sadowski will contact the State Bar for more information.

II. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. **Adoption.** No report.
- B. **Alternative Dispute Resolution.** The committee is meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Uniform Collaborative Law Act. Also working on the Regional Mediation Competition, Feb 4-5, 2010. Mediators who would like to judge, contact Toni Raheem or Zena Zumeta.
- C. **Alternative Family.** No report.
- D. **Amicus.** No new amicus requests
- E. **Annual Meeting.** Dearborn Sept. 14-16, 2011.
- F. **CLE/ICLE.** No report.
- G. **Court Rules.** Anne Argiroff.
 - 1. Council voted 19-0 authorizing the Chair to send a letter (drafted by J. Harrington) to Chief Justice Kelly inquiring about the status of the anti-trolling proposal.

2. Council voted 16-1 with 1 abstention to support proposed amendments to MRPC 7.3 to require notification of solicitation on envelopes, provided that this requirement is mandated in conjunction with positive action on an “anti-trolling” Court Rule/MRPC amendment that would ban direct solicitation for fourteen (14) days as approved by the State Bar Representative Assembly. See S Ct. Adm. File 2002-24.
3. Council voted 11-6 to support Alternative B of proposed amendments to MRPC 6.1, which addresses pro bono service because it identifies specific dollar amounts, identifies types of organizations for contribution and remains voluntary. Those opposing Alternative B suggested that this financial contribution should be properly the subject of a mandatory Dues increase; that while the current proposal is not a disciplinary offense, the door will be wide open to making this a disciplinary offense in the future, and that it may lead to selective enforcement in the future.
4. Finally, a proposal for amending MCR 3.210, the default rule, was provided and will be addressed at the December meeting.

- H. Domestic Violence.** The State Bar and Council sponsoring Pro Bono Training on Domestic Violence and Family Law on Oct. 29 provided 30 new pro bono attorneys in Michigan. Thanks to the generous support of the LEAP Fund in Grand Rapids.
- I. Family Court Forum.** June 10, 2011 in Ann Arbor. The topic is legal custody.
- J. Family Law Journal.** Barb Kelly and Lorne Gold are gathering printing bids that will include an electronic version along with the print journal.
- K. Family Support.** Reminder that the committee is gearing up for the next 4-year review in 2012 and is interested in any suggested changes from council. Please share with K. Weichmann and C. Martina.
- L. Journal Advertising.** Agreed that Traci Rink will investigate Council’s agreement with Roland Fancher regarding advertising and revenue sharing.
- M. Legislation.** No report.
- N. Membership/Mentor Roundtables.** No report.
- O. Midwinter/Midsummer Seminars.** Midwinter seminar begins Feb. 5, 2011 in Antigua and balances are due Nov. 15. L. Midsummer seminar is July 21-24, 2011 and will probably be at Mission Pointe due to the price difference compared to the Grand Hotel.
- P. Political Action Committee.** N. Coleman reported that last year’s PAC contributions totaled \$12,360.97. So far this bar year, \$1400.00 collected.
- Q. QDRO/Taxation.** No report.
- R. Technology.** L. Sadowski informed Council about issues related to subpoenas for social networking sites and suggested we consider a court rule amendment. It was also noted that the correct meeting dates need to get onto the calendar on the web page.

III. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Resource Allocation Committee.** No report.

- B. Parenting Coordination.** R. Halloran reported that the group is working on draft legislation for the committee's review and then to Council.

IV. New Business/Announcements

- A. R. Halloran announced Measure for Measure will be performing Dec. 3, 8pm at St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor and Dec. 12 at the Dearborn Performing Arts Center.
- B. C. Thacker announced that Lynn Perry's husband died at a work accident yesterday, Nov. 5.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Next Meeting:

December 4, 2010, at the University Club, 3435 Forest Rd, Lansing, MI
Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting at 9:30