

## MINUTES – FAMILY LAW COUNCIL, FAMILY LAW SECTION

THURSDAY, SEPT 30, 2010

LOCATION: DEVOS CENTER – GRAND RAPIDS, MI

### Election Results

The following individuals were elected to council:

Elizabeth Bransdorfer

James Harrington, III

Donna Mobilia

Antoinette Raheem

Erika Salerno

Stacy Van Dyken

Gail Towne

By a unanimous vote of Council (21-0), the following officers were elected:

Chair – Amy Yu

Chair Elect – Connie Thacker

Treasurer – Traci Rink

Corresponding Secretary – James Harrington, II

Recording Secretary – Rebecca Shiemke

### Attendance:

- o **Council Members Present:** Anne Argiroff, Carol Breitmeyer, Neil Colman, Richard Halloran, James Harrington, III, Connie Mobilia, Philip Navarre, Antoinette Raheem, Traci Rink, Kristen Robinson, Erika Salerno, Rebecca Shiemke, Liisa Speaker, Connie Thacker, Robert Treat, Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop, Kent Weichmann, Amy Yu, Elizabeth Bransdorfer, Stacy Van Dyken Gail Towne.
- o **Ex Officio & prior Council Members:** Barbara Kelly

### I. Administrative Matters

A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order following elections.

B. **Chairperson's Report – Amy Yu:**

1. **Meeting Schedule.** A schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2010-11 was handed out and Amy reminded members that only two absences are allowed before being subject to removal from Council.
2. **Bar Journal.** N. Colman will work with K. Robinson on Family Law Journal advertising. Because each Council member must write at least one article per term on council, a sign-up sheet is being circulated to chose an issue in which to submit an article.
3. **Blaine Johnson, Jr. Award.** Council and ICLE will jointly present the Blaine Johnson, Jr. Award in honor of Blaine who passed away in June. The award will be announced at the Family Law Institute and awarded next year. It will recognize significant CLE contributions and mentorship in family law.

C. **Recording Secretary Report – James Harrington, III:** By motion, with second, the minutes from the June 5, 2010 meeting were approved 21-0.

- D. **Treasurer's Report** – Connie Thacker: Remember to timely submit forms requesting reimbursement. Traci Rink noted that as this year's Treasurer, she may use her home address for mail rather than the FOC office. She'll announce it once she decides.

## II. **Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. **Adoption.** No report.
- B. **Alternative Dispute Resolution.** No report.
- C. **Alternative Family.** No report.
- D. **Amicus.** L. Speaker gave an update regarding the amicus cases that Council was involved in this past year.
- E. **Annual Meeting.** C. Thacker will work with A. Yu. Next year's meeting is in Dearborn.
- F. **CLE/ICLE.** Reminder that the Family Law Institute is Nov. 11 & 12.
- G. **Court Rules.** J. Harrington, III gave an update regarding court rules and other issues taken up by the committee this past year. A written report was provided.
- H. **Domestic Violence.** Motion by R. Shiemke that Council supports 10 scholarships for legal aid attorneys to attend the Family Law Institute. Seconded and approved unanimously. Also announced the State Bar and Council is sponsoring a Pro Bono Training on Domestic Violence and Family Law on Oct. 29 in Ann Arbor or by webinar. The training is free in exchange for agreeing to take a pro bono case. Flyers are available.
- I. **Family Court Forum.** Motion by B. Kelly that Council contributes \$2000 to the forum. Seconded and approved unanimously.
- J. **Family Law Journal.** It was noted that we have a new printer and that we are considering an e-journal format.
- K. **Family Support.** A notice was posted in the Journal for input on any proposed changes to the support formula. 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.** K. Robinson will be the new chair.
- M. **Legislation.** K. Weichmann gave an update regarding legislation that Council was involved in this past year.
- N. **Membership/Mentor Roundtables.** J. Hanslovsky will chair.
- O. **Midwinter/Midsummer Seminars.** Midwinter seminar will be in Antigua. L. Gold and T. Rink have requested bids from the Grand Hotel and Mission Pointe for the summer seminar.
- P. **Political Action Committee.** N. Coleman reported that last year was a successful year for contributions despite the economy. J. Harrington explained the purpose of PAC and noted it supports Bill Kandler's important work for Council.
- Q. **QDRO/Taxation.** No report.
- R. **Technology.** No report.

## 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 next meeting, hopefully sometime in October.

#### **IV. New Business**

- A. A. Yu is interested in any suggestions for legislation that council members might wish to propose. T. Rink mentioned that FOCA has drafted proposed legislation on the issue of paternity revocation and K. Weichmann indicated he had a copy which the Legislation Committee will consider.
- B. R. Halloran announced that Wayne County received a 3-year DOJ grant to establish a domestic violence court and is interested in suggestions from council. R. Shiemke offered to work with him on the project.
- C. K. Robinson and R. Shiemke worked on a list of court websites to include on the Section's web site. Rebecca will forward it Amy for posting.

By motion and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Family Law Council meeting is November 6, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi, MI. Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting to follow at 9:30.