MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING SECTION

November 17, 2007 11:30 a.m.
University Club, East Lansing, Michigan

I. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. by the chair, Lauren M. Underwood

II. A. Council Members Excused:

B. Council Officers and Members Present:
Lauren M. Underwood         Nancy L. Little
Harold Schuitmaker             Douglas G. Chalgian
George W. Gregory

W. Josh Ard                     Marilyn A. Lankfer
Daniel E. Cogan                 Douglas A. Mielock
John R. Dresser                 Amy N. Morrissey
Robin D. Ferriby                Rebecca A. Schnelz
Sebastian V. Grassi, Jr.         Richard J. Siriani
Hon. Kathryn A. George          James B. Steward
Mark K. Harder                   Thomas F. Sweeney
Ellen Sugrue Hyman               Marlaine C. Teahan
Shaheen I. Imami                 Robert P. Tiplady
                                      Joan C. Von Handorf

C. Others Present:
Susan M. Allen                     J. R. McGraw
Cynthia S. Andrews                Hon. David M. Murkowski
Sen. Hansen H. Clarke             Lorraine F. New
Kevin Cotter                      Patricia M. Ouelette
Hon. Phillip E. Harter           Valerie L. Rice
J. David Kerr                     Christine M. Savage
Valerie F. Lafferty                Pamela J. Sisson
Marguerite Munson Lentz         Teresa S. Sullivan
                                      Derek A. Walters

III. Introduction of Guests: All attendees, including guests, introduced themselves.
IV. **Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the October 20, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections.

V. **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer George W. Gregory provided a written report, which written report was modified by his explanation that there were revenues not reported on the document so that there is, in fact, a positive balance in the Section account. He indicated that the reason for this was that he had not received the report on dues that had been received. He also reported that they believe that they have located a sponsor for the Speaker’s Dinner in Traverse City (see attached exhibit).

**Chairperson’s Report:** Lauren M. Underwood provided the Chair’s report and she indicated that it is a good time for members to make a contribution to the Hearts and Flowers Fund and they can do that by either writing a check to George W. Gregory PLLC or to the Hearts and Flowers Fund and send it to George W. Gregory PLLC with a notation that it is for the Hearts and Flowers Fund. Ms. Underwood also reported that the State Bar Law Practice Survey is being expanded to include questions regarding practice areas and that the Probate Section has been invited and members are invited to offer suggestions as to what types of questions should be asked and also to participate in a focus group on the preparation of this survey.

Ms. Underwood also indicated that she is participating in an informal group looking toward establishing specialization in the area of mediation for probate mediators and invited participation in that group.

VII. **Report of the Committee on Special Projects:** No Report.

VIII. **Standing Committee Reports**

A. **Internal Governance**

1. **Budget** – *George W. Gregory, chair:* No report.


3. **Michael Irish Award** - *Brian V. Howe, chair:* No report.


6. **Relations with the State Bar** - *John R. Dresser, chair:* No report.

**B. Education & Advocacy Services for Section Members**

1. **Amicus Curiae** - *Mark K. Harder, chair*: No report.

2. **Continuing Education & Annual Probate Institute** - *Nancy L. Little, chair*: No report.


**C. Legislation and Lobbying**

1. **Legislation** - *Harold Schuitmaker and John R. Dresser, co-chairs*:

2. **Michigan Trust Code** - *Mark K. Harder, chair*.


**D. Ethics, Professionalism and Standards**


**E. Administration of Justice**

2. **Uniformity of Practice** - Sebastian V. Grassi, Jr. and Joan Von Handorf, co-chairs: No report.

F. **Practice Issues, Related Areas & Liaisons**

1. **Charitable Giving/Exempt Organizations** - Robin D. Ferriby, chair: No report.


6. **Court Rules and Forms** - Harold Schuitmaker and Joan C. Von Handorf, co-chairs: Joan C. Von Handorf then discussed changes in Court rules and after some discussion she is going to revise those and get those back in front of the Council for future consideration.


8. **Family Law/Family Law Section Liaison** - Patricia M. Ouellette: No report.


10. **Tax Section Liaison** – Lorraine F. New: No report.

11. **State Bar Liaison** - Francine Cullari: No report.

12. **Trust/Michigan Bankers Association Liaison** - Daniel E. Cogan: No report.


IX. **Other Business:**

X. **Hot Topics:**
XI. **Adjournment** - the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas G. Chalgian