

**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.
2. **Bylaws** - *Marilyn K. Lankfer, chair.* No report.
3. **Michael Irish Award** - *Brian V. Howe, chair.* No report.
4. **Long-Range Planning** - *Lauren M. Underwood, chair.* No report.
5. **Nominations** - *Henry M. Grix, chair.* No report.
6. **Relations with the State Bar** - *John R. Dresser, chair.* No report.

7. **Annual Meeting** - *Lauren M. Underwood, 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.
3. **Section Journal** - *Nancy L. Little, chair*. No report.
4. **State Bar Journal** - *Sebastian V. Grassi, Jr., chair*. No report.
5. **Pamphlets** - *Ellen Sugrue Hyman, chair*. No report.
6. **Electronic Communication** - *John R. Dresser, chair*. No report.
7. **Committee on Special Projects** – *Amy N. Morrissey/Richard J. Siriani, co-chairs*: No report.

C. Legislation and Lobbying

1. **Legislation** - *Harold Schuitmaker and John R. Dresser, co-chairs*:
2. **Michigan Trust Code** - *Mark K. Harder, chair*.
3. **Statute of Repose** - *John A. Scott*: No report.

D. Ethics, Professionalism and Standards

1. **Ethics** - *Marilyn A. Lankfer, chair*. No report.
2. **Unauthorized Practice & Multidisciplinary Practice** - *Thomas F. Sweeney, chair*. No report.
3. **Specialization and Certification** - *Shaheen I. Imami and Richard A. Shapack, co-chairs*: No report.
4. **Practice Management** - *Richard J. Siriani, chair*. No report.

E. Administration of Justice

1. **Contested and Uncontested Probate Proceedings** – *Amy N. Morrissey, chair*. No report.

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.
2. **Estate Gift Tax** - *George W. Gregory, chair*. No report.
3. **Real Property Tax Issues** - *George W. Gregory, chair*. No report
4. **Guardianships and Conservatorships** - *Douglas G. Chalgian, chair* : No report.
5. **Business Law and Business Section Liaison** - *John R. Dresser, 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.
7. **Elder Law/Elder Law Section Liaison** – *W. Josh Ard*: No Report.
8. **Family Law/Family Law Section Liaison** - *Patricia M. Ouellette*: No report.
9. **Real Property Law/Real Property Section Liaison** - *Richard Shapack*: 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.
13. **Michigan Probate Judges** – No report.

IX. Other Business:

X. Hot Topics:

XI. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas G. Chalgian