

Elder Law and Disability Rights Section [ELDRS] of the State Bar of Michigan  
Section Meeting – April 4, 2020  
Webinar / Conference Call Only

Attendance by Phone: Christine Caswell\*, Howard Collens\*, Shannon DeWall\*, Raymond Harris\*, Angela Hentkowski\*, Catherine Jacobs\*, Greg Kish\*, Robert Mannor\*, Erin Mortenson\*, Theresa Orlaske-Rich\*, Kelly Quardokus\*, Tracey Rowens\*, Sanford Mall\*, Jackie Rygiel-Sprague\*, Christopher Smith\*, David Kerr, Charlotte Shoup, Harley Manela, Jim Henke, Kara Jennings, Kim Winokur, Lisa Anderson, Mara Kent, Maria Messina Wiersma, Rob Longstreet, Sean Ziadah, Todd Tennis, Beth Swagman, William Bereza, Susan Klooz, and Jim Stewart

[\*ELDRS Council Member]

.....  
Chair Kelly Quardokus called the meeting at approximately 10:05 AM

**[A] ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Agenda- Christine Caswell moved and Erin Mortenson seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion passed.

Minutes- Robert Mannor moved and Shannon DeWall seconded to adopt the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report- The February financial reports from the State bar of Michigan were reviewed. There were no issues but it was noted that the revenue for the spring conference reflected in February's balance would be less in March as a result of ELDRS Spring Conference refunds. (Coronavirus).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **FALL CONERENCE 2021-** Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville, MI  
Approve Fall Conference & Authorize Down payment of \$1,000.00 – Motion by Angela Hentkowski, seconded by Christine Caswell. Motion Passed.

**[B] COVID-19 UPDATE**

1. **New Committees - Introduction of Ideas and Work so far**  
Chair Kelly Quardokus created three new committees to address the needs of the ELDRS Section
  - (i) **Witness/ Notary Issues -** This committee was set up to quickly request and influence the issuance of an Executive Order regarding remote witnessing and notarization. The work of the committee and Capitol Services was outlined. Upon the issuance of the Executive Order, the work of the Committee will be

concluded, and the legislative solution will be referred back to the Legislative committee.

- (ii) **Pandemic Best Practices** – The committee is working on promoting best practices for attorneys. The committee will also work to promote State Bar of Michigan Resources. There was further discussion about Attorney General Warning regarding video conference hijacking.
- (iii) **Pro Bono/ Volunteer** - Christine Caswell will be leading this committee and working with the State Bar on Pro Bono options to help in this crisis. It was discussed that if anyone has volunteer ideas to contact Christine Caswell.

## **[B] COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Spring Conference - CANCELLED** – A discussion was had about the cancelled Spring Conference and the process for refunds. Theresa Orlaske-Rich moved to authorize Harley Manela to schedule the 2021 Spring Conference. Jackie Rygiel-Sprague seconded the Motion. Motion passed.

**2. Fall Conference Update (October 7-9, 2020)** - Angela Hentkowski discussed the details for the Fall Conference.

**3. Disability Rights Committee** - Shannon DeWall discussed the concerns of the ELDR Section about possible rationing of health resources and how that might impact those with special needs. The next meeting of the committee will be April 13, 2020 at 12:30 PM.

**4. Legislative Committee** - Christopher Smith / Capitol Services (Oral Report). A report was given by the legislative committee. Specifically, there was further discussion regarding the Governor's Executive Orders and the proposal to adopt a version of the Uniform Power of Attorney Act. Of interest are the proposals to require banks to accept valid powers of attorney and potential legislation regarding requirements for gifting powers. Christopher Smith reported that there will be two separate bills.

**5. Litigation** – No report.

**6. Membership and Education** - Maria Messina Weirisma and Tracey Rowens discussed that past webinar video links have been posted and gave updates on the ELDRS Exchange. The April ELDRS Exchange will be online. They will also be conducting a webinar on remote signings.

**7. Administrative** – ELDRS efforts with MDHHS seem to have stalled in that the most recent changes to the BEMS did not even provide for due process and the opportunity to comment.

**8. Bylaws** – Recent events have shown the need to update the Bylaws for ELDRS. A

discussion took place on the process for changes.

**[D] CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**1. DHHS / ELDERS / LEGISLATOR Joint Meetings Update—** Kelly Quardokus discussed the continuing efforts to cooperate and coordinate with DHHS.

**2. Governor's Task Force on Elder Abuse Update-** Christopher Smith reported on the efforts of the Governor's Task Force.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**MAY 2, 2020 ELDERS COUNCIL MEETING (WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL ONLY)**

**JUNE 6, 2020 ELDERS COUNCIL MEETING**

**NO JULY MEETING (4th of July weekend)**

**AUGUST 8, 2020 (in U.P) ELDERS COUNCIL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 ELDERS COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 7-9, 2020 FALL CONFERENCE**

**Meeting Adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM**