

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION

December 20, 2012

Present: Laura Rufolo - Chair
 Anthony Wilson - Past Chair
 Marcia Buckley - Treasurer
 Lauren Saucy - Secretary

Members at large: Debra Dority, Scott Leibenguth, Christopher Eggert, Gregory Oliveros, Sean Armstrong, Richard Funk

Also participating: Kimberly Quach - Member at large beginning 2013
 Murry Petitt - Member at large beginning 2013
 Jennifer Currin - Member at large beginning 2013
 Susan Grabe - OSB Liaison

The meeting took place by teleconference.

Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Business: The following items of business came before the committee:

1. **Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, it was:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Family Law Section Business Meeting held October 19, 2012, are approved as written.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held October 20, 2012, are approved as written.

2. **Treasurer's Report.**

Account Balances. The section's November 2012 account balance is \$67,378. We have 1101 members currently in our section.

3. **Salishan Conference 2012 Subcommittee Report.** The event was a success. Feedback from the participants was distributed to both the speakers as well as the 2013 Salishan Planning Committee. Thoughts on issues to be addressed in future conferences were also forwarded.

4. **Legislation Subcommittee Report.** No action needs to be taken regarding legislation at this time, but the section expects a busy session in 2013.
5. **Family Law Section Web Page Subcommittee Report.** A facelift of the section web page has been mostly finalized. We are now in the second stage of development which requires the committee to address and potentially add features such as systems or databases.

The merits and particulars of creating and hosting an expert database (i.e. custody evaluator, mediator, appraiser, etc.) were discussed. Greg Oliveros is going to do further research on initiating an expert database.

6. **Hardship Policy for Conference Fees.** A section member brought to the attention of the Salishan Planning Committee that the section should consider a discounted rate for attendance at the annual conference for section members who experience financial or other hardship during the year. The merits of this proposal were discussed, and, among other things, it was brought up that a decision could be made as to whether or not this would be a true waiver, or instead a deferral with the fee to be paid over time. Many members were concerned that applicants should not have to disclose financial information to the section to qualify in the event this plan was implemented, and that any decision as to deferral/waiver should instead be made on statements by the member alone.

It was observed that the Oregon State Bar has a hardship exemption program that we might be able to tie in with. Susan Grabe will look in to the OSB hardship policy and will report back as to how many people who qualify for the exemption are also members of the section, and whether or not the OSB would deem it to be appropriate for our section to be able to determine if members who request waivers/deferral for our annual conference have already qualified through the OSB program.

7. **Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee Update and Request for Funds.** Richard Funk has been appointed to the SFLAC. Members to this committee are appointed by the court. This committee deals with substantive issues that are relevant to our section's membership. Due to budget cuts, there is no longer funding provided through the State Court Administrator to cover administrative and clerical costs incurred in running SFLAC. SFLAC therefore needs both clerical and attorney support.

SFLAC requested contribution from the section in the amount of \$10,000. It was noted that this figure is more than one third of the section's annual member dues (\$27,000) and exceeds by more than double our expected 2013 revenue (\$4,800). A contribution of this amount would have to be approved by the Board of Governors. Susan Grabe advised that the OSB could provide administrative services for less than \$1,000, and she will provide more information about this option at our next meeting.

After discussion, the committee requested a more specific and tiered proposal for funding be submitted by SFLAC. The committee also requested further specifics, such as whether this would be a one time request or an annual and continuing request.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Lauren Saucy, 2012 Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.

Lauren Saucy

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The schedule of future meetings is:

Thursday January 17, 2013 3:00 p.m.