

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION

July 17, 2014 Meeting

Present: Lauren Saucy -- Chair

Members at large: Marsha Buckley, Ryan Carty, Jennifer Currin, Debra Dority, Chris Eggert, Zach Fruchtengarten, Susan Grabe, Murray Pettit, Kimberly Quach, Laura Rufolo, Anthony Wilson

Absent: Kristin Sager-Kottre, Caitlin Mitchel-Markley

Also Participating: John Hudson, Adoption Subcommittee
Ryan Carty, Legislative Subcommittee
Susan Grabe, OSB Liaison

The meeting took place by teleconference.

Call to Order. The Chair began the meeting at 3:04 p.m. A quorum initially was not present, but as attendees were added, a quorum presented.

Approval of Minutes. The April, May and June 2014 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Murray Pettit had only one suggested change, to which the Committee agreed.

Treasurer's Report. Marsha provided the following information:

June 2014 Revenues consisted of \$250 in membership fees.

June 2014 Expenses consisted of \$8 conference calling, and \$80 OSB Support Services Assessment.

The June 30, 2014 ending fund balance is \$82,577.

Our Section Member Count is 1,060--1 member less than the count of 1,061 last year at this time, and 24 members below our 2014 Budget of 1,084 members.

The Committee unanimously approved the report.

Legislation. Ryan circulated a proposal from the Standing Committee on Adoption. The bill was introduced in the 2013 session. It pertains to the

information that must be included in the petition where there is a child falling under the jurisdiction of The Indian Child Welfare Act. It is designed to ensure that adoption petitions address all legal requirements. Ryan seeks approval now as it is important for timing reasons.

John Hudson provided additional some detail. The drafters observed that there were ambiguities in the existing law. Robin Pope sat on the drafting committee.

Ryan solicited a motion supporting the legislative proposal relating to ORS 109.315 and 109.321. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Membership. Laura, Jaycee and Jennifer are willing to sit on a membership subcommittee. Laura sent an email soliciting interest in joining FLEC. Some respondents were unfamiliar to the Committee. There were a couple who had not been practicing law for a significant period. Jennifer will investigate finding a new member from southern Oregon in an effort to create geographic diversity. Most of the respondents were women; only one was a man. In order to add a new member, the Committee needs to publish the nominee at least 30 days prior to the Salishan Annual meeting.

It is noted that we will need to find a new Treasurer once Marsha is no longer eligible to remain on the Committee due to tenure. Zach Fruchtengarten agreed to replace Marsha as Treasurer.

John Hudson indicated it would be a significant overlap to have someone from his committee join this Committee. The members of his adoption subcommittee include Scott Adams (of Banks), Tim Brewer (of Eugene) and John Wittwer (of Sweet Home).

Moved to invite the slate proposed by the membership committee passed unanimously.

John indicated that the Adoption Committee is also aiming for geographic diversity in its membership. There are a total of ten members on that committee, and one vacancy. The Adoption Committee normally nominates new members who are then approved by this Committee. John has a new candidate who he will ask to the next meeting which is scheduled for October 1, 2014. The Adoption Committee is active, and John indicates they are a pleasure to work with.

John reviewed the Adoption Committee's bylaws about two years ago. He is undertaking steps to change some of them. The Adoption Committee approved them yesterday. John will introduce those changes to this Committee at the Saturday morning meeting at Salishan.

Salishan. Kimberly advised the Committee that the meeting planning was proceeding uneventfully. The Committee explored increasing the registration fee for the upcoming meeting. The Bar indicates our section charges substantially less than other sections. The OSB provided comparisons. The Family Law Section (FLS) is providing CLE credits (with food) at \$19.73 per credit hour. For a typical 6-7 hour CLE (no meals) the OSB charges between \$28 and \$32 per credit hour. Another example given by the OSB indicated other sections charge between \$36 and \$39 per credit hour when food is involved. Ryan notes that OTLA charges \$500 per person for 2.5 days, and the CLE credits are identical. The meeting provides a good service to the section in terms of the number of CLE credits, amenities of the resorts, and food offerings.

The merits of raising the registration cost for the annual conference were debated. Some members expressed concern about increasing the registration fees if we are moving venue; we do not want to discourage attendance. Others indicated that an increase in fees would provide additional capital to fund those qualifying for hardship assistance. The Committee agreed to increase the registration fee by \$20-25 per person for both section and non-section members. Concern was raised that the additional cost would be hard for government lawyers and solo practitioners. The Committee agreed that the fees should be scaled so as to not discourage attendance of government, non-profit lawyers, new lawyers and solo practitioners.

Marsha advised that Salishan was just acquired by another company in the last couple of months.

The Committee unanimously adopted a \$25 per person increase in registration fees for private lawyers and a \$10 increase for government and legal aid lawyers to cover increasing costs while still offering our section members the best rates per credit hour.

Commented [mcda1]: I thought we made other increases as well, but honestly can't remember. This may be right.

Professionalism Award. The Committee unanimously approved the current wording for the professionalism award. It noted that the group may not be able to implement the award this cycle due to wording.

The Committee agreed that the due date for the award could be moved on an urgent basis to August 1, 2014 if a subcommittee could be formed. Debra, Tony and Murray agreed they would sit on the screening subcommittee. There is need to circulate the opening of nominees on the listserve. The full Committee could consider the action by email if necessary.

Webpage: Laura indicates she is waiting on text from Ryan regarding the legislative forum for the website. Ryan's objective is to have this up and running by Salishan to discuss at the business meeting. The organizers also hope to have a directory of family law practitioners on the webpage.

Hardship Policy. Zach and Murray will circulate the form to the Committee next week. There will be an expedited approval process. They can approve the form and circulate it. The goal is to have it in place by September 1, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:56 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Kimberly Quach, 2014 Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.

Kimberly A. Quach

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The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2014 at 7:00 a.m.