

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION

January 15, 2015 Meeting

Present: Debra Dority -- Chair

Members at large: Susan Grabe, Jennifer Currin, Murray Pettitt, Kimberly Quach, Andrew Ivers, Lauren Saucy, Jennifer Brown, Laura Rufolo and Stephanie Wilson

Absent: Zachary Fruchtengarten, Sarah Silberger, Melinda Thomas

Also Participating: Scott Adams, Ryan Carty

The meeting took place telephonically.

Call to Order. The Chair began the meeting at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. The Committee unanimously approved the November, 2014 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report. There was no Treasurer's Report for this meeting.

2014 Annual Meeting. Kimberly reported that the annual conference received good comments this year. The comments pointed out that some of the topics were overly complicated for the short amount of time allotted. Most of the comments stated that the food was good.

There was a discussion as to why expenses went up this year. It was noted that more people requested mileage reimbursements. Also, two notable increases included Salishan charging \$10,000 more in gratuity and the video expense increased.

Website. There was a discussion on what additional items should be added to the Family Law Section website. The discussion included having a list of custody evaluators, listing the professionalism award standards and criteria, and/or having past Salishan materials available. It was decided that the subcommittee would ask the members of the listserv for suggestions and that the suggestions would be consolidated by the subcommittee to discuss at a future meeting.

Future Contract Negotiations with Salishan. The committee is in the process of finalizing the contract with Sunriver. There was a discussion on whether to do a one or two year contract with Sunriver. For those concerned that attendance would decline because of the increased travel, believed that a one year contract would give us the freedom to move after only one year. However, because the event is so large and there are so few facilities that can accommodate that size of group, we believed that a two year contract would be best because there would probably not be sufficient time to secure a new location and a new contract with less than one year before the event. Therefore, it was agreed that a two year contract would be negotiated. If it became evident that attendance declined to such an extent that it warranted moving the event to another location other than Sunriver, then the event could be moved after two years in Sunriver.

It was discussed that there be an announcement at Salishan this year to start people thinking about making plans for the next year in Sunriver (2016).

Professionalism Award. It was discussed and decided that the past Professionalism Award Recipients should be listed on the Family Law Section website. It was also discussed that the criteria and timeline for the Professionalism Award should be posted on the website. An announcement about nominations for the Professionalism Award was going to be sent in March or April to allow time for submissions before the May 1st due date.

2015 Annual Meeting. Stephanie Wilson announced that there have been a number of volunteers for presentations. She is working on having one of the presentation meet the requirements for an elder abuse credit as that seemed to be one of the credits members were interested in obtaining to meet their reporting requirements.

Hardship Policy. Hardship applications are now on the website. Debra was going to send out notification to the list serve well before the announcement of the annual conference. Kimberly volunteered to help Zach and Murray with the Hardship Policy Application process or on an as-needed basis.

It was discussed that we needed to look into how much funding we have available to give fee reductions based on financial hardship. It was discussed that the cost of the Annual Meeting was \$82,000 and the revenue was \$79,000, thus we did not even break even this past year. There may not be sufficient funds to grant hardship applications based on this report.

Adoption Subcommittee. John was not present. However, Brian Hemphill was unanimously approved as the new member on the Adoption Subcommittee.

Scott Adams suggested that the *Standing Committee for Adoption Law* be changed to the *Standing Committee for Adoption and Reproductive Technology Law*. Scott noted several reasons in support of this change including that the national organization had done the same. After Scott Adams's brief presentation, the committee unanimously approved the proposed name change. The Adoption Subcommittee is now **The Standing Committee for Adoption and Reproductive Technology Law**.

Legislative Subcommittee. Ryan noted that there is room on the Legislative subcommittee for those interested in participating. If anyone is interested in participating, they can contact Ryan.

Ryan said that this would be a heavy year for family law changes and discussed a few of the proposals that were on the table for this legislative session including (1) repealing the "child attending school" framework, (2) mandatory caps on spousal support awards, (3) PERS survivor benefit issue, and (4) mandatory discovery upon request by obligors and obliges of child support.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Jennifer Currin, 2015 Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.

/s/

Jennifer E. Currin

* * * * *

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.