

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION

**October 14, 2017**

Present:	Chair:	Jennifer E. Currin
	Chair Elect:	Jennifer Brown
	Treasurer:	Zachary Fruchtengarten
	Secretary:	Stephanie Wilson
	Past Chair:	Absent
	Members at large:	Shannon Snow, Debra Dority, Amanda Thorpe, Murray S. Pettit, Andrew D. Ivers, Keri Smith and Annelisa Smith.
	Absent:	Kimberly Quach
	Also Participating:	Ryan Carty, Christine Constantino, Susan Grabe

The meeting took place in person in Sunriver, Oregon.

**Call to Order.** The Chair began the meeting at 7:14 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes.** The Committee unanimously approved the June 15, 2017 meeting minutes, subject to minor changes.

**Treasurer's Report.** Zachary Fruchtengarten reports that the financials for September came out yesterday. The budget is a moving target since this conference since it is still somewhat new and we need to determine how much of an increase in cost this has resulted. The budget for next year is due December 1<sup>st</sup>. The annual conference is the big number. There has been some discussion about raising membership dues but ultimately the consensus was that this isn't the year to raise it. The increase in the cost of the conference may just be absorbed by the conference fees. Discussion ensued.

Paid invoice for the person who hosts the website. They need direction from us regarding hosting and the cost. See the website subcommittee update for further discussion.

We are carrying too high of a reserve/surplus. Sections with a large surplus is encouraging to spend those funds on their members, otherwise it could go to the general fund.

We also need to include a line-item in the budget for the hardship policy. Right now, it simply appears as a loss of the conference.

#### **Continuing Business:**

- 1. Annual Conference 2017 Update** – Jennifer Brown reports that there were some hiccups, such as downloading materials. Most can be addressed with minor tweaking. For materials, not only put warning that members need to download materials before they

arrive, but also put it in the brochure and send Sunriver the link so they can ensure it can be downloaded. Many of the hiccups were the shortcomings of the resort such as the failure to have enough seating for attendees. The contract stated to set the room to the max and they informed us, knowing our final numbers, that they would have enough chairs but that didn't happen. Fortunately, they were able to remedy any problems fairly quickly.

- 2. Website Subcommittee Update** – Andy Ivers reports that he needs to update the minutes. We can keep the same platform as we have, despite discussions that the bar would require us to switch our platform to one approved by them. We will be posting past years conference materials, starting with 2015.

Our domain is expiring, the question is how long we renew it for. The bar is currently undergoing major upgrades with their sites, so we may have future conversations about migrating our website to the bar. However, the cost to maintain our domain is inexpensive.

A bigger cost that that will require us to determine the likelihood of the migration is making our website mobile optimized. Currently, there is a surplus running in the budget, so this could be a good use, however the cost to make this optimization could be around \$3,500, so it's worth having a discussion with the bar before we move forward.

Finally, there has been a request to include a specific property search link. The link will be sent out for us to review and then we can decide whether to include it.

- 3. Legislative Subcommittee Update** —Ryan Carty reports that there is an interim judicial committee project workgroup that will focus on custody being formed right now. Ryan and Debra both participated in a similar work group in 2015/2016. It will look at modifying the term custody to “legal decision-making authority” as well as unbundling some of the traditional custodial rights, allowing for more judicial discretion. It would not be a joint custody mandate. The 2015/2016 committee was much smaller, this will be a longer, broader group. It will need to include a parent who has lost custody and a parent who has joint custody.

Another piece of legislation regards collaborative law, working on a uniform collaborative law act. Will expect a legislative bill to come out. The bar worked with individuals interested in collaborative law to address issues with our professional conduct. Ryan expects we'll see implementation of the 2019 session. Discussion ensued.

Veterans' issues will be addressed again, or more specifically when a service member is deployed. Ryan worked with both a senator and a representative to assist service members. Reviewing how the court addresses deployed members and their relationship with their children. It would be along the lines of 109.119. Concerns from prior sessions is to ensure that there is not an infringement upon a parent's constitutional rights.

4. **Hardship Policy Subcommittee Update** –Zach reports that we are receiving requests for hardship. The hardship policy seemed to be tied to whether we earned a profit from the conference. However, we do have a significant surplus that should be used to benefit or assist our section members. We can use those funds to subsidize a few of our attendees who are unable to afford the cost of the conference fees. Each of the people who applied for the hardship this year met all of the qualifications. Discussion ensued as to how this would be a good use of the surplus. Further, if we are required to raise the conference fee, this would help some people offset *that* cost. We will wait until the year end to see the final numbers for the conference.
  
5. **Professionalism Subcommittee** – Debra reports that everyone had positive feedback about presenting the professionalism award during lunch.
  
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **Future Annual Conference Contracts Update** – Jennifer Currin reports that a new committee needs to be formed to start looking at new venues. We had to sign a two year contract again with Sunriver because it wouldn't have provided us with enough time to locate new locations and negotiate the conference contracts. This new subcommittee will be Jennifer Currin, Shannon Snow, Amanda Thorpe and Stephanie Wilson.
  
  - b. **2018 Annual Conference Subcommittee** – Annelisa Smith will be the chair. Joining her will be Murray Pettit, Shannon Snow, Amanda Thorpe and Keri Smith.
  
  - c. **Task Force on Paraprofessional Program** – Christine Constantino reports that there is a new future task force on the paraprofessional program that is coming down from BOG, which would assist with family law cases and landlord tenant. Currently only one family law attorney on the BOG. Christine would like constructive input. This started with the courts wanting lawyers to come up with a solution to our current access to justice problem. There have been discussions regarding this program and they have set up an exploration committee that includes BOG members, PLF, the Law Schools, etc. The proposal would have to include malpractice insurance, 1500 hours of training that is supervised by an attorney, etc. Discussion ensued.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:37 a.m.

These minutes were prepared by Stephanie F. Wilson, 2017 Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/Stephanie F. Wilson\_\_\_\_\_

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*The next meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. via telephone conference.*