

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2023 MINUTES**

**Present:** Hon. Erin Fennerty, Chair  
Keri Smith, Chair-Elect  
Shallon Halttunen, Secretary  
Samantha Benton, Treasurer

Members at Large: Shala Kudlac, Kacie Bitzenburg, Amanda Thorpe,  
Annelisa Smith, Adam Shelton

Also Participating: Susan Grabe, OSB

**Absent:** Patrick Melendy, Kayla Steindorf, Brittany Berkey, Zachary Gottlieb, Kristi Skalman, Alexander Jones, Kendra Russell (unexcused)

**Call to Order.** The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm. The meeting took place via Zoom. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Family Law Section Executive Committee (FLEC) meeting held January 5, 2023, were circulated in advance of the meeting. Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Samantha Benton. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was presented by Samantha Benton. Financials were provided in advance of the meeting.

- Upcoming expenses include \$1,500 to Salishan to secure the facility for the 2023 conference.
- Net assets of approximately \$60k.
- The biggest expenditure is the conference. The 2022 conference cost approximately \$95k. Registration revenue was approximately \$92k (may not include donations)
- Expecting a good year moving forward.
- Membership is down about 6 members, as compared to 2021

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **Annual Conference Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Alex Jones Keri Smith, Pat Melendy, Kayla Steindorf, Samantha Benton, Zach Gottlieb.
  - *Update from Keri Smith:*
    - Possible golf event
    - 50 rooms set aside
    - Working on “hot topics” with Lauren Saucy
    - Working on selecting speakers
    - Emcee needed. John Barlow has been the emcee in the past however, he is doing a presentation on ethics this year.
  
- **Awards Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Brittany Berkey, Kristi Skalman, Adam Shelton. No Chair.
  - *Adam Shelton reports:*
    - No update. Still need a chair. This subcommittee has not yet met.
  
- **Listserve**
  - Amanda Thorpe reports the committee was dissolved long ago.
  - Discussion regarding monitoring and removing people from Listserve upon request.
  - Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to dissolve the Listserve subcommittee. Seconded by Amanda Thorpe. No discussion. Unanimously passed.
  - Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to have the Chair-elect generally keep an eye on the Listserve and bring any issues to the Board. Amanda Thorpe seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimously passed.
  
- **Family Law Newsletter**
  - *Samantha Benton reports:*
    - OJD previously helped with the newsletter. There may have been a grant at one point. OJD did not provide a substantial amount of work for the newsletter but may have provided case information.
    - Reached out to Kate Cooper-Richardson about DOJ’s involvement.
    - Position description has been drafted and will be circulated to the Board to review.
    - May need a blanket response for proposed newsletter submissions.
    - Discussed potentially leaving the position open for 3 weeks.
    - Potential candidates to be presented to the Board.
  - Discussed editor responsibilities – Judge Murphy was doing case summaries. Also need statutory updates. PLF newsletter may include those already. The subcommittee should coordinate with the PLF.
  - Requirements for position: Bar membership, member of this section.
  - Previous stipend was \$1,666 per issue (bi-monthly).

To discuss this further at the next meeting.

- **Website**
  - *Hon. Erin Fennerty reports:*
    - Michael Legleiter at OSB has updated the website.
    - Contact information section updated.
    - December approved minutes are uploaded.
- **Parental Relocation Workgroup**
  - *Hon. Erin Fennerty reports ongoing involvement. Working on creating a legal process for parental relocation; radius (60 miles vs. driving distance); timeline; and content of the notice.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **OSB International Law Section** – wants FLEC to co-sponsor CLE to satisfy child/elder credits. Discussions with Katelyn Skinner at Buckley Law; suggested speaker Molly Becker, is ready to present CLE. Molly is a former DHS caseworker; now an attorney specializing in dependency. Hon. Erin Fennerty will reach out for additional information about the requested co-sponsorship and will report back.
- **Legal Ethics Committee Seeking Feedback on Amendment of RPC 3.7** – the Legal Ethics Committee is currently reviewing whether to amend the current RPC 3.7 (Lawyer as Witness Rule) to match the ABA Model Rule 3.7 and is seeking feedback from the FLEC.
  - Discussion regarding proposed change and whether we are providing feedback for the Section or Board. Discussion regarding the Board's mission.
  - Shallon Halttunen will reach out to LEC to request a summary and reason for amending RPC 3.7 and will report back.
- **Declaring a Vacancy on FLEC**
  - FLEC position can be deemed vacant if a member fails to participate; is absent; and when the member fails to attend four meetings, even if excused.
  - Kendra Russell has missed at least 6 meetings. Her term expires in December 2023. Judge Fennerty recently reached out to Ms. Russell regarding her interest and participation in FLEC, without a response.
  - Discussion regarding declaring vacancy due to lack of participation.
  - In late 2022, attorney Laura Eckstein inquired about membership. At that time, the slate had already been determined for this year.
  - Judge Fennerty will reach out to Ms. Russell to provide her written notice that the FLEC will consider declaring her position vacant at the March 2023 meeting. The written notice will inform Ms. Russell she will be removed from the FLEC unless she responds within seven days.

**The following agenda items were tabled:**

- Potential venues for annual conferences
- Ideas re: purpose of FLEC and value-added membership

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** March 2, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes prepared by Shallon Halttunen, Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.