

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION
JANUARY 5, 2023 MINUTES**

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

Members at Large: Shala Kudlac, Patrick Melendy, Alexander Jones, Kayla Steindorf, Adam Shelton, Zachary Gottlieb, Kristi Skalman, Kacie Bitzenburg, Amanda Thorpe, Brittany Berkey, Annelisa Smith

Also Participating: Susan Grabe, OSB

Absent: Kendra Russell

Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. The meeting took place via Zoom. A quorum was present.

Introduction of Committee members.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the Family Law Section Executive Committee (FLEC) meeting held December 1, 2022 were circulated in advance of the meeting. Amanda Thorpe moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Samantha Benton. Motion passed unanimously, with Shala Kudlac abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: The report was presented by Amanda Thorpe. Financials were provided in advance of the meeting.

- 2022 Family Law Conference loss was approximately \$9k, which is a smaller loss than typical;
- 311 registered for conference (typically 400);
- Financially sound;
- Cutoff for BOG is 2x annual membership fees; we are approximately \$400 over;
- The budget has been approved by the BOG;
- Increased section dues (BOG approved);
- Approximately \$50k on hand; and
- Most remaining expenditures will show up in February.

Other: Ryan Hunt is the BOG Representative for the Family Law Section.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **Annual Conference Subcommittee Update: Alexander Jones**
 - Jones circulated 2023 proposed contract with Salishan in advance of the meeting.
 - Discussed 2023 contract terms. Need to pay deposit and approval in by Jan. 13. Contract terms more favorable than last year: lower food budget and room requirement fees. Overall cost will be less than 2022. 2023 is last year under contract with Salishan. Food and beverage gratuity is 24% (same as last year). Jones requested contract approval.
 - Hon. Fennerty moved to approve the 2023 Contract with Salishan for the Annual Family Law Conference, which Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - We should announce 2023 conference dates soon.
- **Awards Subcommittee Update:** No report. Need to appoint a new Chair.
- **Website Subcommittee Update: Hon. Erin Fennerty**
 - The website has been migrated to OSB. Michael at OSB offered to upload information to the website. 2022 Minutes are up. Some updates still need to be made.
- **Legislative Subcommittee Update: Susan Grabe**
 - Discussed need to revitalize committee. New session starts next week. The House/Senate judiciary committees are posted. The Bar will scan through Bills when they receive the list. Any Bill with family law ramifications will be sent to FLEC point person. The relocation workgroup is ongoing. Will send a draft of the Uniform Parenting Act once received.
- **Hardship Policy Subcommittee Update:** No update. This subcommittee is tied to the conference to allow applications for reduced attendance fees. Typically, we do not receive applications and the program isn't really promoted.
- **Listserve Committee Update:** We don't monitor the list serve like in the past. Amanda Thorpe used to monitor until it. Previous rules regarding usage no longer exist because of free speech. The Chair Elect usually serves. We could eliminate the subcommittee. To discuss in new business.

- **Family Law Newsletter:** Judge Murphy was the editor of the newsletter and has retired. We need to find a suitable replacement. Amanda Thorpe and Samantha Benton are drafting a proposal for the position. Benton is drafting the description. We need to be clear about expectations and the scope of the position. The Board will need to review and determine how much oversight is needed. Thorpe and Benton to discuss and bring draft and recommendations to Board, including stipend amount and minimum number of issues (quarterly/bi-monthly).

Will discuss at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Committees**

- **Awards Subcommittee:** Usually consists of three members. Solicits nominations for awards and reviews applications. Reviews applications and presents applications and makes recommendations to the Board. Usually starts February – April and wraps up in time to issue awards at Family Law Conference.

MEMBERS: Brittany Berkey, Kristi Skalman, and Adam Shelton

- **Website Subcommittee:** Hon. Erin Fennerty recommends dissolving the subcommittee and offers to be the point person for providing website updates to OSB for this year.
 - Hon. Fennerty moved to dissolve the website subcommittee, Melendey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **List Serve Subcommittee:** Hon. Erin Fennerty recommends dissolving the subcommittee
 - Hon. Fennerty moved to dissolve the website subcommittee, which Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Keri will be the point person to review
- **Hardship Subcommittee:** Pat Melendey suggested rolling the subcommittee into the Conference committee. Discussion.
 - Pat Melendey moved to dissolve the Hardship Subcommittee and have the Conference Subcommittee absorb the tasks, which Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Subcommittee:** Need someone to Chair. Task the new Chair to look at how we want the subcommittee to function moving forward: involved with membership; if things are coming up legislatively, do we want to make that known to membership as a whole. Hon. Erin Fennerty requests volunteers.
 - **Members:** Amanda Thorpe offers to serve as Chair. Shala Kudlac, Kacie Bitzenburg, and Annalisa Smith volunteered to serve.
- **Future Venues.** Reviewing potential venues for the annual conference moving forward and exploring possible options. Tabled to next meeting.
- **Other:**
 - Hon. Erin Fennerty inquired as to any additional needs that our organization has that could be addressed by a subcommittee? What value could we add for membership? Anything other than list-serve and annual conference?
 - Bylaws and formation should guide us in deciding what we want to do as a group.
 - Board members were asked to read/review Bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Next Meeting: February 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.