

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION
July 6, 2023 MINUTES**

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

Members at Large: Kristi Skalman, Kacie Bitzenburg, Kayla Steindorf, Adam Shelton, Amanda Thorpe, Alexander Jones, Brittany Berkey

Also Participating: Susan Grabe, OSB; Amy Zubko, OSB Public Affairs Director

Absent: Zachary Gottlieb, Laura Eckstein, Patrick Melendy, Shala Kudlac, Annelisa Smith

Call to Order. Hon. Erin Fennerty called the meeting to order at approximately 12:04 p.m. The meeting took place via Zoom. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. The Amended Minutes of the Family Law Section Executive Committee (FLEC) meeting held June 1, 2023, were circulated in advance of the meeting. Keri Smith moved to approve the Amended Minutes; Adam Shelton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The report was presented by Samantha Benton.

- Report dated May 31, 2023.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **Annual Conference Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Alex Jones, Keri Smith, Pat Melendy, Kayla Steindorf, Samantha Benton, Zach Gottlieb.
 - *Alex Jones reports:*
 - On pace and conference planning is going well.
 - Judge Partridge (Marion Co.) will emcee the event.
 - Room confirmations are out.
 - Flier is ready
 - Expect a broader announcement mid-month
 - Signups should be ready in the next month or so
 - Discussed fees

- **Awards Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Brittany Berkey, Kristi Skalman, Adam Shelton. Chair: Brittany Berkey.
 - *Brittany Berkey reports:*
 - Professionalism award nominee is Laura Rackner.
 - Awards Subcommittee contacted references. Rackner meets all qualifications to receive the award. The Subcommittee recommends Rackner receive the Professionalism Award.
 - Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to award the Professionalism Award to Laura Rackner; Brittany Berkey seconded the motion. Passed unanimously with the exception of one abstention: Adam Shelton.
 - Discussion regarding increasing participation generally, including the nominations process. May need to look at broadening the approach to get more involvement.

- **Legislative Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Amanda Thorpe, Annelisa Smith, Kacie Bitzenburg, and Shala Kudlac.
 - Met two weeks ago with Bar representative.
 - Subcommittee position is they should not take an active role on any legislation and instead focus on improving membership; respond to requests for support to send information out to members; not advance legislation.
 - Legislative affairs posts information to Bar website, also on the family law website.
 - Proposed the role of facilitating information for individuals to provide feedback.

- **Family Law Newsletter.** Committee members are: Amanda Thorpe and Samantha Benton.
 - *Samantha Benton reports:*
 - Still no editor.
 - Samantha reached out to OJD to request judge contact information but did not get a response.
 - Susan Grabe suggested hiring a non-section member to serve as editor.
 - Will bring up the newsletter at the conference.

- **Conference Location Committee.** Committee members are: Alex Jones, Pat Melendey, Amanda Thorpe, Shala Kudlack, and Kacie Bitzenburg, Chair.
 - *Kacie Bitzenburg reports:*
 - Waiting for members to respond to available dates to set first meeting.
 - Amanda Thorpe and Kacie Bitzenburg are working together to get projected costs for next year.
 - Thorp reviewed past costs.
 - Looking to get a facility under contract for two more years.

- Salishan October 24-27, 2024 are available, but may need to look at other dates. Tentatively we are locked in to begin October 24, 2023.
- Conference dates are usually the second weekend in October, which dovetails into the judicial conference.
- Has reached out to Sun River.

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Next Meeting: August 3, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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