

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

Present: Hon. Erin Fennerty, Chair
Keri Smith, Chair-Elect (excused late)
Shallon Halttunen, Secretary
Samantha Benton, Treasurer

Members at Large: Shala Kudlac, Kacie Bitzenburg, Amanda Thorpe, Adam Shelton, Kristi Skalman, Alexander Jones, Kayla Steindorf, Brittany Berkey, Annelisa Smith (late)

Also Participating: Matt Shields, OSB

Absent: Patrick Melendy, Zachary Gottlieb
Kendra Russell (unexcused)

Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:04 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 February 2, 2023, were circulated in advance of the meeting. Adam Shelton moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Samantha Benton. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The report was presented by Samantha Benton. Additional membership fees: \$29,950. Will likely receive additional fees for February. Net assets at the beginning \$61,656 ending net \$75,189 (includes OSB Support Service Assessment).

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **Annual Conference Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Alex Jones, Keri Smith, Pat Melendy, Kayla Steindorf, Samantha Benton, Zach Gottlieb.
 - *Alex Jones reports:*
 - Speakers are nearly finalized:
 - 6 quick tips (competency, crime, variable support compensation; crypto/discovery, and attorney fees/pleadings)
 - Judge Hill: Settlement conferences/prep/memo's
 - Sarah Rich: Resist/Refuse 2.0

- Dr. Jeff Lee: Psycho-sexual evaluations (using and interpreting)
- 3-judge panel: Evaluating Spousal Support
- Beth Englander: Public Benefits – how awarding certain assets. DV, government benefits impacted by award of property.
- Brian Welsh-Mental Health
- Hugh Devall-stalking orders
- John Barlow-ethics hour
- Ryan Carty-legislative update
- SFLAC (Saturday)
- Para-professional program
- Oral advocacy
- Appellate update
- Still looking for emcee.

Sponsors may do a speaking event at lunch.

Still working on a golf tournament – Saturday afternoon (40 people)

Trivia night (Thursday).

- **Awards Subcommittee.** Committee members are: Brittany Berkey, Kristi Skalman, Adam Shelton. Chair: Brittany Berkey.
 - *Brittany Berkey reports:*
 - Nomination announcement is out.
- **Legislative Subcommittee.**
 - *Amanda Thorpe reports:*
 - Request for feedback on mandatory consideration of child's preference (age 14). Information not received in time. Committee did not take action. Now tracking and hope to offer input.
 - Presumption of equal parenting time back up for consideration. Wants to take issue seriously.
 - Committee has not yet met.
 - *Thorpe flagged the following bills to track:*
 - *HB 2032* – expanding domestic partnership to partners of any sex
 - *HB 2390* – requiring judicial dept. to review custody procedures
 - *HB 2398* – rebuttal presumption/joint custody
 - *HB 2416* – modifies procedures for issuing extreme risk
 - *HB 2811* – claim dependency exemption
 - *SB 312* – requiring judicial department to study allocation of parental decision-making
 - *SB 313* – child's preference (re: custody)

- *SB 314* – permits accrual of interest on child support only if non-payment is willful
 - *SB 315* – recreates rebuttable presumption of equal parenting time
 - *SB 547* – permits courts to consider abuse when determining spousal support
 - *SB 806* – allows obligor to modify life insurance requirements for purposes of insuring child support
- **Family Law Newsletter.** Editor in chief job description has been distributed.
 - *Samantha Benton and Amanda Thorpe:*
 - Discussion regarding job description that was circulated
 - Motion to approve editor submissions and allow Samantha & Amanda editorial discretion to make any necessary changes and to get the job description out for publication as soon as possible. Keri Smith seconded. Unanimously passed.
- **Declaring a Vacancy on FLEC.**
 - Previously discussed at February 2022 meeting. After our February 2022 meeting, Hon. Erin Fennerty sent email explaining Bylaws and our expectation to participate. Ms. Russell did not respond.
 - Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to declare Ms. Russell's position vacant pursuant to the Bylaws. Keri Smith seconded. No discussion. Unanimously passed.
 - Laura Eckstein reached out after nominating committee had met and inquired about participating on the FLEC. Ms. Eckstein was active in ONLD's committee. Samantha Benton will reach out to Ms. Eckstein regarding her ongoing interest. Will discuss at next meeting. (Would only fill vacancy left by Russell for the rest of her term.)
- **International Law Section CLE Co-Sponsorship.**
 - Hon Fennerty
 - We were approached by the International Law Section requesting we jointly sponsor a CLE re: elder and child abuse reporting. Speaker secured (Molly Becker – Buckley Law). Will be a hybrid CLE.
 - Would include joint advertising.
 - Monetary contribution – estimated cost is \$400 for room (conference room in their building); recording \$1000-\$1500; social hour \$1,500 - \$2,000
 - FLEC would like to know whether our members can attend for free if we sponsored.
 - An answer is needed by April 12th.
 - Discussed conditionally approving for sponsorship for \$500; cannot sponsor alcohol related expenditures.
 - Hon. Erin Fennerty moved to co-sponsor the CLE for \$500, designating our sponsorship only for non-alcohol related expenditures and conditioned upon our membership having the

option of either streaming for free (live-streamed) or view replay for free (if offered). Kristi Skalman seconded. Unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS was tabled until next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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