

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION
APRIL 4, 2024 MINUTES**

Present: Keri Smith, President
Shallon Halttunen, President Elect
Alexander M. Jones, Secretary
Hon. Erin Fennerty, Past President
Kristi Skalman, Treasurer

Members at Large: Kayla Steindorf, Patrick Melendy, Brittany Berkey, Amanda Thorpe, Adam Shelton, and Laura Eckstein. (Absent: Kacie Bitzenburg, Shala Kudlac, Annelisa Smith, and Seth Hantke).

Others Present: Susan Grabe and JB Kim

Call to Order. Keri Smith, President called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m. 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 March 4, 2024, were circulated in advance of the meeting. After some corrections, Laura Eckstein moved to approve the Minutes; it was seconded by Brittany Berkey. The motion otherwise passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Kristin Skalman. Finances are on track, there was not much to report.

Continuing Business:

1. Conference Subcommittee Update – Keri Smith. Went over the issue with accidentally scheduling the conference during Yom Kippur and the comments that had been received from the membership. JB Kim spoke on the fact that the next possible conflict with this holiday might be in 33 years and discussed inclusion and diversity. Kayla Steindorf (Conference Chair) reported that she looked into trying to change the conference dates, but changing the dates to other weekends would cause other problems. There were weekdays available to reschedule the conference, but the conference committee voted against that because the attendance would likely fall off significantly. The conference committee did vote to find a way to apologize to the Jewish community. General recommendation of the conference committee is not to move the conference and have it remain as scheduled. Susan Grabe and Amanda Thorpe spoke. Members of the section looked up whether this would be an issue through 2028, to verify and the conference should not conflict with other holidays through that date. Susan Grabe indicated that something was in the works with the Bar by way of an apology. In other matters, the conference committee is looking for someone to help with a Thursday night activity as social activity for the conference, volunteers should contact Kayla Steindorf directly.

2. Awards Subcommittee Update – Brittany Berkey. No update at this time.

3. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Amanda Thorpe. No update at this time.

4. Family Law Newsletter - Judge Fennerty. Reached out to people who had expressed interest and received two responses back. One of the responses is very promising. Plan to circulate writing samples and resumes from applicants prior to the next meeting.

5. Conference Location Subcommittee – Patrick Melendy. There is a meeting next Friday to go over materials. Discussed the process of looking a two year contract for 2025 and 2026. Discussed recording the conference at future conferences. Susan Grabe provided some information related to the fact that the Bar was interested in possibly recording the conference. Amanda Thorpe is going to reach out to CLE department to see about cost of recording.

New Business:

Conference Date Votes. Motion to keep the scheduled dates for the conference. Kayla Steindorf made the motion, Patrick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bar Exam Questions. Keri Smith. Follow up on discussion about the removal of family law and trust and estates questions from the bar exam. This is a national bar issue not a state bar issue.

Oregon State Bar. New attorneys are being sworn soon in and the Bar is asking if the Section wanted to be a part of the service. A vote was held on contributing \$100.00 to new member reception. Patrick Melendy made the motion. Adam Shelton seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.

Opportunities for Law In Oregon. The organization is looking for donations. JB Kim gave a report on the nature of the organization. Laura Eckstein moved to donate \$500.00 from the section. Patrick Melendy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

June In Person Meeting. Going to take place in Salem, Oregon. Location to be determined.

Contributions to the Campaign to Equal Justice. Judge Fennerty brought up that the organization is seeking donations and the importance of the organization in handling family law services. This is to be discussed again at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2024 at noon.

Adjournment of Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Alexander M. Jones, Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.