

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FAMILY LAW SECTION, OREGON STATE BAR
FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

Present: Shallon Martin, Chair
Alexander Jones, Incoming Chair
Adam Shelton, Treasurer
Kayla Steindorf, Secretary
Hon. Keri Smith, Past Chair

Members at Large: Amanda Thorpe, Kristi Skalman, Katherine Denning,
Patrick Melendy, Brittany Berkey, John Michael Meyers

BOG Contact: John Marandas

Absent: Laura Eckstein, Andrew Levine, Shala Kudlac, Stefanie Burke

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 in January 2025 were circulated in advance of the meeting. John Michael Myers moved to approve the minutes. Hon. Keri Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved; Brittany Berkey abstained.

Treasurer's Report – Adam Shelton

- December 2024 year end financials show that we are \$5-6,000 over the previous year's budget, but no concerns.

Continuing Business:

- 1. Conference Subcommittee Update – Kristi Skalman (Chair), Kayla Steindorf, Patrick Melendy, Alexander Jones, Katherine Denning**
 - Kristi Skalman reported that she has a couple of lunches scheduled with speakers, and several interested vendors.
 - Kristi Skalman noted that we did not negotiate for suites at Sunriver like we have had in the past.
 - Kristi Skalman requested that the Awards Subcommittee help with arranging the speaker to announce the award during the conference at lunch; Brittany Berkey volunteered.
- 2. Awards Subcommittee Update – Brittany Berkey, Adam Shelton**
 - Brittany Berkey reported that they will be sending out requests for applicants soon, and are working on ideas to get more applicants.
- 3. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Amanda Thorpe, John Michael Meyers**

- Amanda Thorpe brought up concerns regarding ethics advice regarding no contact by attorneys in restraining order cases.
 - Shallon Martin posted this information to listserv for discussion.
 - Shallon Martin reported that if this issue is addressed legislatively OSB has concerns regarding pushback from domestic violence advocates.
 - John Michael Meyers has spoken to a number of attorneys who all agree that the advice needs to be rectified.
 - Alexander Jones reported that SLFAC may also be working on this issue, but Amanda Thorpe advised that SFLAC cannot be in charge of a legislative fix.
 - Hon. Keri Smith reported that the judges in Benton County are actively asking litigants if they want to add an exception for attorney contact regarding the case, and writing it in at the *ex parte* stage.
 - Hon. Keri Smith reports that Kayla Steindorf had a case in front of her wherein Kayla Steindorf filed a motion to modify the *ex parte* restraining order ahead of the contested hearing to alert opposing counsel to the issue; Kayla Steindorf added additional detail.
- Amanda Thorpe reported that there are a lot of other potential family law legislation changes coming up that will be sent to the list serve. Specifically, she noted that the following are up for consideration:
 - 50/50 parenting time assumed;
 - Allowing child to choose parenting time.
- Shallon Martin indicated that she disseminated information regarding how much is within the FLEC's authority to do in terms of legislation.
 - Shallon Martin reported that Dominique Rossi will be working on this issue as well; they are unsure how much can be done in the legislative short session; likely looking at 2027 legislative session.

4. Family Law Newsletter – Amanda Thorpe, Stefanie Burke, Shala Kudlac

- Amanda Thorpe reports that Bronwin is very much still interested in the job.
 - OSB has approved the contract; \$10,000 over quarterly issues; we will help generate topics.
 - They may not be able to do an initial quarterly issue with delay, but will do their best.

5. Conference Location Committee – Alexander Jones, Amanda Thorpe, Patrick Melendy

- Salishan has reached out to Amanda Thorpe for 2026, she let them know for 2025 and 2026 that we would not be back.
- Subcommittee on hold until new contract is necessary.

New Business:

- **No Discussion**

Other:

1. Adam has contacted the Bar regarding updating the website for new positions.
2. Shallon Martin expects that we will continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month; the next meeting is March 6, 2025.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm

Next Meeting: March 6, 2025, by Zoom at noon

Minutes prepared by Kayla Steindorf, Secretary.