

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FAMILY LAW SECTION, OREGON STATE BAR
JANUARY 9, 2025**

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

Members at Large: Amanda Thorpe, Shala Kudlac, Kristi Skalman, Katherine Denning, Stefanie Burke, Patrick Melendy, John Michael Myers

BOG Contact: John Marandas

Absent: Brittany Berkey, Laura Eckstein, Andrew Levine

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. The meeting took place via Zoom. A quorum was present.

Welcome New Members: Katherine Denning, Stefanie Burke, Andrew Levine, and John Michael Myers. New and old members and BOG contact introduced themselves. The Chair introduced committee and subcommittees, and encouraged folks to join subcommittees and be actively involved.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Family Law Section Executive Committee (FLEC) meeting held in December 2024 were circulated in advance of the meeting. Patrick Melendy moved to approve the meetings. Hon. Keri Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Adam Shelton and Kristi Skalman

- They are working on transitioning treasurer duties from Kristi Skalman to Adam Shelton.
- Arrangements have been made for the payments to be made to Sunriver for 2025 conference.

Continuing Business:

1. Conference Subcommittee Update – Kristi Skalman

- Kayla Steindorf, Patrick Melendy, Alexander Jones, and Katherine Denning volunteered to join the subcommittee.
- One confirmed speaker to talk about the use of AI in discovery and trial preparation.
- Potential attorney speaker regarding trauma-informed practice.
- Plan to get the majority of speakers lined up by mid-February and hopes that subcommittee members will assist in search.

- Shallon Martin suggests Ryan Carty as a presenter regarding Schedule of Assets and Liabilities.
- Kayla Steindorf suggests David Bean, who missed out last year because of a religious scheduling conflict.

2. Awards Subcommittee Update – Adam Shelton

- No updates

3. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Amanda Thorpe

- John Michael Myers volunteered to join the subcommittee.
- Discussed whether Legislative Subcommittee should continue; discussed history of committee, limitation of FLEC action.
 - Alexander Jones recommended reformatting committee to be informational rather than lobbying for particular legislation, and/or provide list-serve with legislative updates.
 - OSB provides legislative updates as well
 - John Marandas confirmed that OSB provides legislative updates, that he is willing to provide updates on Public Affairs, any bills that concerns family law issues.

4. Family Law Newsletter – Amanda Thorpe

- Stefanie Burke and Shala Kudlac volunteered to join the subcommittee.
- The contract is with OSB counsel for approval.
- Next step is to approach Bronwin to see if she is still available; if not, the subcommittee will resume search for an editor.
- Some other groups, like OWLS, do newsletter by committee, and it is likely that there will be work to support new editor by providing information and articles, and other tasks.

5. Conference Location Committee – Alexander Jones

- Subcommittee members: Amanda Thorpe, Patrick Melendy, Alexander Jones.
- The subcommittee is unlikely to take any action until next year because we are contracted with Sunriver for the next two years.

New Business:

1. Discussion: Legal Ethics Committee / FAPA Orders

- Legal Ethics Committee has taken the position that attorneys representing respondents cannot have contact with petitioners or their attorneys because this violates the prohibition against contact via third parties; the fix for this issue is likely legislative and will not be addressed until 2027 session, rather in the statewide FAPA forms
- Discussed difficulties this creates for negotiating settlement of restraining orders and what this committee might be able to do
 - RPCs triggered when an attorney violates court order, so as long as

- the FAPA allows contact, RPCs not implicated
- The possible deadline for promoting a change in the legislative session is around March.
 - This creates issues for criminal attorneys.
 - Discuss sending this decision to local judges, encourage them to write in specific exceptions for counsel into FAPA restraining orders.
 - Discuss modifying FAPA to allow attorney contact, difficulties of motion timelines, especially with 5-day hearing.
 - The practical impact is that most FAPAs will not be able to be settled.
- Legislative subcommittee to look into this issue before the next meeting.
 - Hon. Keri Smith to discuss at next judges meeting and report back next meeting.

Other:

1. Alexander Jones reports: 9th circuit court rules that the Oregon statute regarding recordings is good law.
2. John Marandas reports: Susan Grabe has retired, and her replacement is Dominique Rossi.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm

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

Minutes prepared by Kayla Steindorf, Secretary.