

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FAMILY LAW SECTION, OREGON STATE BAR
MARCH 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, Brittany Berkey, John Michael Meyers, Stefanie Burke, Shala Kudlac

BOG Contact: John Marandas (absent)

Bar Liaison: Matthew Shields

Absent: Laura Eckstein, Andrew Levine, Katherine Denning, Patrick Melendy

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 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 February 2025 were circulated in advance of the meeting. Kayla Steindorf notes that there is an error in the date of the caption (the date reads January 9, 2025, instead of February 6, 2025) and suggests correction. Alexander Jones moves to approve the minutes with the edit of changing the date in the caption. Adam Shelton seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Adam Shelton

- Adam Shelton reported that new financials have been released, but there are no major updates to report.
- Adam Shelton will send out the financials to the FLEC.

Continuing Business:

1. Conference Subcommittee Update – Kristi Skalman (Chair), Kayla Steindorf, Patrick Melendy, Alexander Jones, Katherine Denning

- Kristi Skalman reported that progress is being made getting presentations together, 13 confirmed speakers with some panels, working to fill out the judge's panel, Judge Hill will be the MC, several vendors are interested
- Amanda Thorpe reported that someone requested to speak on parent coordination

2. Awards Subcommittee Update – Brittany Berkey, Adam Shelton

- Brittany Berkey reported that she will send out the announcement requesting

applications, suggests reaching out to colleagues encouraging applications so that we have a full field.

3. Legislative Subcommittee Update – Amanda Thorpe, John Michael Meyers

- Amanda Thorpe reported that courts are handling ethics advice regarding no contact with persons protected by restraining order in different ways. She is working on coordinating with Debra Dority from the domestic violence advocacy perspective regarding allowing narrow exception for settlement and scheduling.
- Shallon Martin and Amanda Thorpe were both approached as to why section not doing more regarding legislation; the explanation being that this group does not want to take a position regarding issues on which its members do not have a consensus.
 - Example: the 50/50 parenting time presumption legislation, wherein a majority of practitioners against the presumption, but not a consensus
- Amanda Thorpe indicated that she intends to follow the current policy of representing the bar as a whole and communicating information to everyone so that they can take positions individually or as groups if they want to; if we would like to revisit this policy, we will need a specific process for this
- Shallon Martin reported that if our main focus is to provide information to others, there may be issues regarding timing of us receiving information; Matthew Shields confirmed that timing can be an issue because sometimes we do not get information regarding legislation until right before the hearing. Discussion regarding the process for receiving notification of issues, dissemination, etc.
- Discussion of last round of legislation regarding presumption of 50/50 parenting time presumption, how this impacted the way that attorneys and judges thought about parenting time, how this impacted cases.
- Discussion of what it would look like to take a position on legislation, including sending memo to Board of Governors for review; Matthew Shields would take this to Board; receiving permission from Board. However, there is some caution regarding topics that are highly contested.
 - Alexander Jones suggested possibility of polling to bar, perhaps through listserv. Matthew Shields indicated that this would still need to be approved by Board. Amanda Thorpe explains concerns regarding whether the listserv accurately represents bar, usefulness to legislature.
- Shallon Martin expressed that the FLEC needs to decide whether legislative work is something that we would like to do.

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

- Amanda Thorpe reported that the meeting with Bronwin is rescheduled, but still on track for second quarter edition of the newsletter.
- Shallon Martin received an offer for paper copies of old copies of the

newsletter. Discussion regarding whether we would like them.

New Business:

1. **FLEC involvement related to legislation** – see discussion under Legislative Subcommittee Update.

Other:

1. Adam Shelton contacted the Bar regarding updating the website, it should be updated now.
2. Discussion regarding holding June 5, 2025, meeting in person; location to be determined; possibility of using The Lively again.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm

Next Meeting: April 3, 2025, by Zoom at noon

Minutes prepared by Kayla Steindorf, Secretary.