

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FAMILY LAW SECTION, OREGON STATE BAR
November 17, 2025**

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

Members at Large: Jessica May, Stefanie Burke, Amanda Thorpe, Katherine Denning, Brittany Berkey, John Michael Meyers

Bar Liaison: Avery Pickard (present)

BOG Contact: John Marandas (absent)

General Counsel: Ankur Doshi (present)

Absent: Kristi Skalman, Andrew Levine, 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 September 2025 and October 2025, were circulated. They will be circulated at the next meeting. Brittany Berkey moved to approve the minutes. Alexander Jones seconded the motion. Stephanie Burke notes change the end time from AM to PM in October minutes, and moved to approve minutes with the change. [REDACTED] seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved except that Adam Shelton abstained.

Treasurer's Report: Adam Shelton reported that the conference final invoice numbers are not in, but that we are likely to have less overflow funds. Discussion regarding 20% tip going to the host of trivia rather than set up costs, facility costs, food costs, which should already be included in facility contract. Adam Shelton will investigate the cost of the host. Discussion regarding issue of extra folks attending lunch.

Continuing Business:

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

- Kristi Skalman not present, but sent email to the group
- Shallon Martin reported that we did not contract for 2026 at Salishan
- Amanda Thorpe reported that both Salishan and Sunriver are holding dates in October for us; no under contract for either venue. We will want to

proceed and finalize a contract. We are waiting until we get final invoices from Sunriver this year to see which venue we would like to use next year.

- Discussion regarding minor differences between proposals; Salishan room rates are a bit lower; contract prices are pretty close; at Salishan, we will have the venue to ourselves versus sharing the venue with Sunriver;
- Plan to make decision regarding venue at December meeting.

2. Awards Subcommittee:

- Brittany Berkey was point person on this subcommittee, but will be ending her service at the end of this year
- Main duties are sending out calls for applications, following up on them, ordering the plaques for winners
- Brittany Berkey has templates for announcements, letters, etc.

3. Legislative Subcommittee:

- Amanda Thorpe has been the point person on this subcommittee, but will also be ending her service this year
- John Michael Meyers is currently on this subcommittee

4. Family Law Newsletter:

- Amanda Thorpe is also the point person on this subcommittee, she will get this section ready to pass off
- Stephanie Burk will assist with reaching out to

New Business:

1. Civics Learning Project (requested donation):

- Adam Shelton reported that we donated \$500 last year; we have about \$1,000 in the budget for donations
- They are open to providing a presentation to the group if we want
- Katherine Denning moved to approve \$500 donation; John Michael Meyers seconds; the motion is unanimously approved.

2. Bar Ethics request for input (Formal Opinion No. 2024-08):

- Ankur Doshi reported that waivers of potential future conflicts for prospective clients; this is a common practice in large firms, but not in smaller firms
 - i. This is a somewhat common process in divorce proceedings, wherein one side interviews with a substantial number of attorneys to prevent the adverse party from hiring those attorneys
 - ii. This situation may not rise to the level of a conflict – the ethics committee are looking for feedback regarding the family law section’s advice or opinion regarding whether to issue, amend, or otherwise change the opinion
- Amanda Thorpe reported that this is a common issue in smaller areas; some firms are doing this on purpose; this borders on an access to justice issue because there are so few issues
- Alexander Jones presented concerns regarding informed consent issue and risk of bar complaints; if person is attorney-shopping, they are unlikely to sign a waiver; likely to have to take intake meeting before advising, giving

information to the person regarding consent and waiver

- i. This may be a best practices issue, rather than a true conflict issue
- Additional points may be provided by email to Ankur Doshi before early December 13, 2025 meeting; comments should be submitted before December 10, 2025.

3. 2026 Slate:

- Shallon Martin reported there are multiple folks who are interested in becoming new members; a spreadsheet of new members and officer positions has been circulated with the Agenda this meeting.
 - Shallon Martin reported regarding folks leaving the FLEC:
 - i. Judge Smith and Amanda Thorpe have reached their lifetime term limit.
 - ii. Brittany Berkey has resigned effective at the end of this year.
 - iii. Shala Kudlac resigned shortly before conference
 - iv. Laura Eckstein is not returning
 - Shallon Martin briefly reported regarding each of the new members and officer positions
 - Katherine Denning in moved to accept proposed slate of new members and officer positions, Adam Shelton seconded; unanimously approved
 - This list of folks will go out to the full bar for vote; then new positions will take effect January 2026.
4. Avery Pickard was contacted by Campaign for Equal Justice having a fund raising event that overlapped the conference, and they are requesting conference attendance records so that they can do fundraising outreach to those members

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Next Meeting: on December 4, 2025, at noon via Zoom

Minutes prepared by Kayla Steindorf, Secretary.