

**FAMILY LAW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
FAMILY LAW SECTION, OREGON STATE BAR MINUTES:  
April 2, 2026 AT NOON (VIA ZOOM)**

**Chair:** Alexander M. Jones  
**Chair Elect:** Kayla Steindorf  
**Past Chair:** Shallon Martin  
**Treasurer:** Adam Shelton  
**Secretary:** Patrick Melendy

**Members at Large:** Kristi Skalman, Katherine Denning, Stefanie Burke, John Michael Myers, Abby Cettel, Julia Newland, Catherine Gaskin, Lauren Barnhart, Brittney Sumner, Honorable Francis G. Troy, Honorable Jessica May (absent).

**Oregon State Bar Liaison:** Matthew Shields

**Board of Governors Contact:** John Marandas

A quorum was present.

**AGENDA**

**Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the March minutes, seconded and approved by the committee.

**Treasurer's Report:** Adam Shelton presented the February financial report noting no new financial issues except ongoing review of conference fees and payments to Salishan. Adam Shelton inquired about the next payment deadline to Salishan, but Alexander Jones didn't believe there would be additional required payments beyond the initial \$10,000 deposit. Adam Shelton also mentioned current funds were around \$7,000-\$8,000, with more expected from registrations and vendor payments, and Matthew Shields advised raising concerns early if funds became low.

**Continuing Business:**

**1. Conference Subcommittee Report:** Shallon Martin reported. The committee discussed current budget constraints, reporting that last year's conference was approximately \$150,000 over budget and noting that even eliminating the Friday dinner would only save around \$20,000. The group explored potential cost-saving measures including reducing reception expenses and discussed the need to potentially increase conference registration fees. The committee also addressed room reservations at Salishan, deciding to offer basic rooms to speakers with any upgrades being paid by the speakers themselves. Judge Troy raised concerns about about the conference date change (from last year), leading to a discussion about communication limitations with the Oregon State Bar regarding announcements. The conversation ended with plans to send out a "save the date" announcement to the listserv once room blocks are confirmed and the website is updated with the new information. Regarding rooms at the conference the FLEC members agreed to respond to Stefanie Burke's e-mail regarding room preferences to ensure proper room set-asides for the conference.

**2. Family Law Newsletter Report:** Stefanie Burke reported that article submissions were delayed and would likely be published in June. Matt Shields confirmed that writing for the newsletter qualifies for MCLE credit on an hour-for-hour basis, with some limitations on the total credits allowed.

**3. Website Report:** No report.

**4. Legislative Subcommittee Report:** John Michael Myers updated that two of the previously

discussed bills passed, including House Bill 4111 and Senate Bill 1557.

- 5. Conference Location Subcommittee:** Alexander Jones reported and discussed plans for finding a new venue for the 2027 conference, aiming to accommodate 300-400 people with a total budget of \$80,000-\$110,000. While Salishan has been a popular option, Sunriver was deemed too expensive, and the group explored alternative locations including the Seaside Convention Center and a casino in Coos Bay (Ko-Kwel) that could accommodate up to 500 people. The committee noted that moving away from urban areas helps with hotel costs and provides a better experience for attendees.
- 6. Awards Subcommittee Report:** Judge Troy reported. Judge Troy indicated he was working on ways to increase the applicant pool but had not yet received responses from his outreach efforts and would report back.

**New Business:**

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 7, 2026, at Noon (Via Zoom)

Minutes prepared by Patrick Melendy, Secretary