

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON STATE BAR FAMILY LAW SECTION

Date: April 20, 2017

Present:	Chair:	Jennifer Currin
	Chair Elect:	Jennifer Brown
	Treasurer:	Absent
	Secretary:	Stephanie Wilson
	Past Chair:	Kimberly Quach
	Members at large:	Keri Smith, Debra Dority, Amanda Thorpe, Murray Pettit
Absent:		Chris Costantino, Andrew Ivers, Shannon Snow, Annelisa D. Smith, Zachary Fruchtengarten
Also Participating:		Ryan Carty, Susan Grabe

The meeting took place telephonically.

Call to Order. The Chair began the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (March 2017). The Committee unanimously approved the March 2017 meeting minutes with the corrections to Kimberly Quach's name and the date.

Treasurer's Report. Zachary Fruchtengarten was absent.

Continuing Business

1. 2017 Annual Conference– Jennifer Brown reports all speakers are confirmed. Collaborative law panel, changes to child support, prenuptial agreements, capacity and aging clients, criminal versus family law, spousal support modifications, presentation on evidence in family law cases, ethics in billing, appellate update and legislative update are all on the docket, along with a few others.

Small issue came up in regards to rooms for speakers. Original contract set aside Lodge Village suites, and all regular guestrooms are sold out at this point. The Resort only set aside 20 suites, which is insufficient for the number of speakers. We were able to obtain additional suites and river rooms, but not all at staff rate. This means room rates for speakers are between \$164 to \$184. If every speaker wants one of these rooms, then it will cost us an extra \$2,000, however that additional cost is off set with no national speaker. Additionally, many speakers already have rooms or other accommodations, making the total \$2,000 unlikely.

If you need a room, let Jenny know asap so you can get on the list. It will not be compensated, but we can reserve a room for you.

Working on finalizing the menu. Shannon Snow is coordinating this with the Resort, trying to keep the costs similar to last year. For future planning purposes, food costs are really high at Sunriver. We will have to consider raising the fees to offset these costs if we keep the conference at Sunriver.

2) Website Subcommittee Update –Andy Ivers is absent.

3) Legislative Subcommittee Update — Ryan Carty reports that our bills are going to the House Judiciary Committee on Monday afternoon at 1:00. Ryan will be there testifying re. life insurance, spousal support exchange of information. We have a couple of other items in the works, a bill that failed, not making it out of committee is SB 898, designed to create a task force to review custody and parenting time in Oregon. The primary focus being what was discussed by last year’s keynote speaker, changing term custody to decision making authority, as well as the presumption of equal parenting time. Some of the lawmakers thought this was a good idea, but the bill didn’t go anywhere, so no task force. However, there will be a work group that will be looking at these issues. Three to four senators have constituents who are interested in the joint custody presumption, therefore it will be one of the topics that the work group will analyze and discuss.

Discussion ensued.

SB 1055: change in how deployment is defined for National Guard, which overturns the United States Supreme Court Case Troxel case. That passed out of Senate, which we didn’t believe would move out of Committee. So this is something that we will have to address. This would change what Oregon did to 109.119 to satisfy Troxel. For a deployed parent in the National Guard, the court can, in an effort to promote the relationship with that parent, provide for a temporary order for parenting time for a step-parent, grandparent, etc, notwithstanding 109.119. It gained movement at the last minute.

4) Professionalism Subcommittee Update – Debra Dority reports that we have not received any nominations yet. Kathy Root is going to re-nominate Eric Larson.

Discussion to find a time to honor Larry Gorin. Should rename the professionalism award? A number of people have asked if we are going to honor Larry at the conference. Cannot rename the list serve.

Another idea would be to list all of Larry’s monographs on the family law website. The problem is that it won’t be continually updated and will become out of date at some point.

Is it enough of an honor to simply recognize Larry’s contributions at the Conference, which doesn’t typically occur for other members who have retired or passed away.

We will do something for him at the conference and announce something, such as creating a place on the website for his materials to be housed.

5) Hardship Policy Subcommittee Update – Nothing to report until it is determined if there is money to provide for this. If not, then there cannot be a hardship this year.

6) Listserve Etiquette – Anyone can send out the list serve etiquette. Amanda sent an informal email when another scuffle came up, which then created a series of emails about censorship. She will prepare a few emails to be sent out so that she can act more quickly and uniformly.

There were questions regarding consequences. If there is a person who repeatedly bullies on the list serve and violates the guidelines, then it can be brought to the committee to be addressed.

7) 2018-2019 Annual Conference Contracts Update – Jennifer Currin reports that she got the updated contracts, which needs to be sent out to everyone for review and approval. There were some revisions made. The food budget, in 1st contract, was a guaranteed \$28,000, then she upped it to \$60,000. Jennifer questioned her about this increase; the Resort said it was based on what we spent in 2016. Negotiated down to between \$45,000 and \$50,000, which is a number that we have never been below, even at Salishan. In speaking with the Resort, they changed the down payment from \$1,500 to \$2,500, now to two \$5,000 payments. The Resort says that they normally required a 50% of the cost as a down payment, but because we're a non-profit, they are accommodating us. This is already a hardship for them, and in their eyes, \$5,000 isn't a lot. We will see some places where there are differences, but they should not see a substantive change to the actual costs.

They are also raising the room rates each year. The rooms started off very low. At this point, after these negotiations, we need to go shopping for a new venue.

8) New Business –

We received an email from Lee Berger from the newly formed Marijuana Section. The Cannabis Law Section Executive Committee has sent us a memo regarding a grievance lodge against our section for a presentation made at the 2016 Annual Conference. They believed that it was one-sided and they would like us to send it out the memo to our members and then do a CLE to provide another side of this issue. Judith Sweeney was a last minute fill-in for a speaker that decided to pull out. Ms. Sweeney's presentation took a different route than anticipated. They want us to announce this at the 2017 meeting and they want to be given time at the next meeting to present something different.

These presentations are supposed to be educational in their nature, it isn't something that we are sponsoring or agree with. Does not believe it is appropriate to announce their grievance, especially since we don't endorse any of our speakers, but if they want to present the "other side" at next year's CLE, that's fine if the committee would like to have them present.

We could propose that they write a letter for our newsletter as a way for them to have a voice.

It should be noted for the next meeting that we need to discuss the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Stephanie F. Wilson, 2017 Secretary to the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee.

/s/
Stephanie F. Wilson

*****Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m. via telephone conference.*****