

FAMILY LAW SECTION COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF February 14, 2014 Meeting:

The Following persons attended via telephone: Jennifer Brumley, Joanne Kibodeaux, Audrey Numbers, Jennifer Schindele, Mahmood Sheikh, Melanie Baillie, Mackenzie Whatcott, Tom Dial, Karin Seubert, Linda Pall, Chris Hopper, Paul Guidias and Drew Tentelbury..

1. Welcome and Introductions: by Chairman Joanne Kibodeaux

2. Minutes: There was a correction on the minutes from January 10, 2014. The minutes are amended to reflect that Jennifer Brumley and Tom Dial had each attended via telephone. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motions passed unanimously with one abstention by Linda Pall who was not in attendance at the January meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report: was given by Mahmood Sheikh as Lisa Rodriguez was not present. Mahmood reported that the January financials for the sections are being finalized now and he will have something to the group early next week. Linda inquired about the carryover funds from December and Mahmood stated it was about \$4,700 above the allowable carryover from the Bar. It was moved and seconded that we accept the report as given and wait for an updated report. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee reports:

CLE Committee: Jennifer Schindele reported.

Annual Meeting: The committee has decided to propose a section on the Indian Child Welfare Act. The speakers are not yet determined but they are hoping for someone from the Bannock and Nez Perce tribes, and possibly Denise Rosen from the State Department of Health and Welfare. Mahmood indicated that the proposal was due by Tuesday of next week and that it is OK to submit the proposal without having the speakers finalized. The dates of the Annual Meeting will be July 16-18.

Animal Law CLE: We are co-sponsoring this CLE with the new Animal Law Section of the Bar. It is set for April 10th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The main speaker is Ali Phillips from back East who will speak on the connection between animal abuse and family violence. The cost will be \$140 for members of the sections and \$160 for nonmembers. There was discussion about whether we should donate any of our profits to the Animal Law Section. It was suggested that we look at our own financials before we addressed this issue. It was moved and seconded that we table the issue until a later date when we have more information about our own financial situation. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint CLE with Young Lawyers Section: The joint CLE with the Young Lawyers Section will be held on May 8, 2014 and will probably be held at the Water Center and will last 1 1/2 hours. This CLE will offer ethics credits and address civility.

Publication Committee:

Handbook: Tom Dial stated that he is still waiting on responses from people who are doing articles. He reported that he is having trouble finding someone to update the elder law section. He has had someone review it and that person has indicated that it needs to be updated. If he is unable to find someone to do it then it will have to be pulled from the publication. Joanne offered to contact Judge Bieter to see if he could suggest someone. There are people working on updates to the Elder Law section of the Handbook as well as someone working on a new section addressing division of military pensions in divorce. He suggested those authors may be good speakers.

Tom also suggested getting someone to take over for him as editor of the Handbook. He stated that Fred Zundal is willing to do so and he suggested that he bring Fred on as assistant editor to make the transition. Tom said he is willing to continue that way as long as Fred needs him to so that we have a smooth transition. Joanne indicated that the idea of bringing Fred on as assistant editor of the Handbook in order to prepare him for taking over as editor is a good one.

Formbook: Tom reported that he is uncertain of the number of Formbooks which are sold annually by the section. Steve Stokes was going to edit it but now he is pursuing a different career path and will not be able to do so. He suggested that Mackenzie Whatcott may be interested in taking it over. He also suggested that we do a survey to determine who uses it and what suggestions for changes members may have. He thought that Fred Zundel may be willing to assist with a survey. Linda moved that we do the survey before the April 10th meeting so we could discuss it then. This motion was not seconded. Tom stated that he did not think the survey could be done by then. Mackenzie stated that she is interested in coming on as editor of the Formbook.

Tom indicated that he would have a meeting of the Publication Committee before the April 10th meeting so he will have more information for us then.

Legislative/Rules Committee: Mike Kraynick was not present so no report was given.

Annual Meeting: Our July meeting will be connected to the Annual Meeting and our reception will be on Thursday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m. Tom suggested that we may want to look at somewhere in Pocatello for the reception as it is only ten minutes from the Fort Hall Reservation. He was concerned that there may not be a good venue available at Fort Hall.

This is the 25th Anniversary of the Award and Linda suggested that we get a letter out to past award recipients. Joanne was concerned that we cannot afford to pay for them all to come. Linda suggested we just send a letter to let them all know of the event and that they are invited without suggesting we pay for them to attend. Linda offered to do the letter and it was agreed that she would do so. Tom suggested language in the letter to state something along the line of "while we can't pay their way for this 25th Annual Celebration of the Award of Distinction we would love to have them attend."

New Business:

5. **2014 Family Law Section Slate of Candidates:** Joanne announced the slate which will be voted on by all members: The slate is as follows:

Chair: Melanie Baillie

Vice Chair: Jennifer Schindele

Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Rodriguez

At Large Members: Debra Alsaker-Burke

Tom Dial

Fred Zundel

Tom Smith

Mackenzie Whatcott

Joanne pointed out that the slate assures diversity of membership around the state on the board. It was moved and seconded that we accept the slate to be voted on by the members. The motion carried with Linda Pall voting in opposition. After the vote there was further discussion as to how the vote was going to be handled. Such as whether there would be the option to nominate other candidates. Joanne pointed out that this was part of what was decided when we met to discuss reorganization early last fall. The idea is to just do an up or down vote. Once the new board is in place we could look at changes to the system. She pointed out that we spent a lot of time working out a system that made sure we had the diversity we wanted and that we had a succession so that once you agree to run for an office you know you are committing to a four year term where you will move up from Secretary/Treasurer to Vice Chair, to Chair and finally to Immediate Past Chair for your final year. Joanne also pointed out that anyone who wants to be involved has many opportunities by volunteering for our various committees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Numbers substituting for Lisa Rodriguez