

MSBA Family Law Section Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2009

The meeting was brought to order at 9:35 A.M.

1. Welcome and Introductions – 27 people attended. Not all present at time of vote.
2. Approval of March 14, 2009 Minutes – Motion to Approve. Second, Passed.
3. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Anderson
  - a. Our current ending balance is \$3,000 with reserves of \$42,692.
  - b. We are running lower on cash balance funds because we have had larger expenses due to greater productivity of the Section.
    - i. Paid for 4 editions of the Family Law Forum;
    - ii. Donated \$5,000 to the MSB Foundation for 2008
    - iii. Funded the Perterka Amicus Brief
    - iv. We may be asked to fund an Amicus in the Hopf Case, which would put us in the red. (See Amicus Report below)
4. Report of the Chair – Tami Peterson
  - a. Executive Committee
    - i. The committee voted to make a \$100 memorial donation in honor of Lorraine Clugg to the Minnesota Hoofed Animals Rescue League.
    - ii. The committee discussed the request from the MSB Foundation for a \$5,000 donation from the Section to support the Foundation's projects for low income and disadvantaged individuals. It was determined that since our ending balance is currently at \$3,000, which would preclude the requested donation. The Executive committee recommended a "no" vote at this time but will consider it along with other requests in the strategic plan.
      1. Motion: The Family Law Section should donate \$5,000 to the MSB Foundation
      2. Second.
      3. Discussion:
        - a. Speaking for support of the motion:
          - i. MSBF could not have undertaken Amicus (Vote/Baker/McKee-Hoof Cases) without their financial support in the past;
          - ii. We have over \$42,000 in reserves;
          - iii. MSBF's good work has supported the Section;
          - iv. We should vote on our core values;

v. BLWAP, Alexandra House, Loan Repayment Assistance, Mediation Program, Fathers & Families, MLSC, VLN have all been supported by MSBF which serve our clients as well.

b. Speaking in opposition to the motion:

- i. The Strategic Plan could address these requests;
- ii. Would it be wise to be spending down our reserves at this time?;
- iii. We need to be dealing with our budget like a business and be intentional with our allocations according to our budget

4. The Question was called. Discussion ended.

5. Vote on the Motion:

- a. 16 Yes
- b. 5 No
- c. 2 Abstain

iii. Executive Committee voted to grant a \$1,000 scholarship to Pamela Waggoner to attend the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts held the end of May 2009.

5. Committee Reports

a. Amicus: Mike Dittburner

- i. Peterka v. Dennis Case: Decision issued holding that court appointed neutrals have immunity (Rule 706 Appointment) because judicially ordered and it was stipulated per the parties. This case is not limited to just family law.
- ii. Hopf v. Hopf Case: Co-Chairs recommend that we do not do an Amicus on this case.
- iii. Motion: That the request for Amicus be rejected since we'd be arguing facts.
  - 1. Second.
  - 2. Discussion.
  - 3. Vote: Passed Unanimously

b. Domestic Abuse – Rana Fuller

- i. Working on a training curriculum on domestic violence
- ii. BWLAP will be using William Mitchell Externs for research;
  - 1. Motion: Request to be allowed to co-sponsor domestic violence training at Hamline
  - 2. Seconded.

3. Discussion: this training will meet the Rule 114 requirements and we want to sponsor it so we can utilize the Section mailing list to publicize it.
  4. Vote: Passed Unanimously.
- c. Strategic Plan – Cheryl Prince
- i. Plans are being made to hold a full-day meeting of the whole executive committee in the fall, to develop a Strategic Plan. The Budget will be a topic under discussion as will funding requests.
- d. Publications – Linda Wold
- i. Benefits Edition has been published and all should have received their copy.
  - ii. Swimming With Sharks Edition is in the process of being published and should be out very soon.
  - iii. We need ideas for topics, authors, and what you would like to see in future editions. Contact Linda Wold at [lwold@usfamily.net](mailto:lwold@usfamily.net) for more information.
- e. Legislation – Glen Norton
- i. The Family Law Bills have been pushed aside due to all the financial and funding bills currently moving through the legislature.
  - ii. Joint Physical Custody Presumption may pop-up again and if so, it will be dealt with via the listserv.
  - iii. The Tax on Legal Services, if vetoed, may come up again.
  - iv. Filing fees are likely to go up and attorneys will be assessed \$1per/page for documents they file.
  - v. Stay tuned to the listserv for any last minute bills that may come up at the last minute: Then be prepared to contact your legislators.
- f. MSBA Council Report – Margaret Erickson
- i. The Council is a 15 member body that meets monthly;
  - ii. @ Priorities of the Council for this term are:
    1. Funding for the Courts, Legal Aid, Public Defenders;
    2. Opposition to sales tax on legal fees
6. New Business:
- a. Slate of Officers for 2009-2010
    - i. Chair: Pamela Waggoner
    - ii. Chair-Elect: Steve Snyder
    - iii. Vice Chair, Legislative Committee: Glen Norton
    - iv. Vice Chair, Publications Committee: Linda Wold
    - v. Secretary: Margaret Erickson
    - vi. Treasurer: Ryan Anderson

- vii. Greater Minnesota Members: Gary Voegele, Barbara Runchey
- b. Motion to move adoption of the Slate of Officers for 2009-2010.
  - i. Second.
  - ii. Discussion: None
  - iii. Vote: Passed Unanimously

7. Announcements

- a. Bridging Perspectives Conference is May 12-14, 2009 and will involve national speakers on the topic of men who batter.

MOTION to adjourn. SECOND. PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully submitted for Kathleen Murphy,

Linda Wold