

Election to the Family Law Council

All Family Law Section members are eligible for election to one of the 21 seats on the Family Law Council. At the Section's Annual Meeting seven members are elected to a three-year term, in addition there may be seats open for a shorter term due to a resignation or other circumstances creating a vacancy on Council.

Why become a member of the Family Law Section Council? If you care about family law and molding the shape of domestic relations practice, Council membership furnishes a challenging opportunity. You will stay up to date on the latest legislation, proposed legislation, court rules, and other cutting edge issues. The Family Law Council regularly files *amicus* briefs with the Michigan Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, and has lively discussions on appellate issues. Bring your fresh ideas to the Section and the practice of family law. You will meet colleagues from around the State of Michigan who are also high energy leaders.

The privilege of Council membership requires a significant investment of time and energy, and includes at least the following commitments: (1) Attendance and active participation at the monthly Council meetings (nine meetings, usually but not always, held on the 1st Saturday of the month at various locations throughout Michigan) and at the Family Law Section's Annual meeting, usually held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting in September of each year; (2) Publication of at least one article for the *Family Law Journal* during a member's three-year term; (3) Active participation in one or more committees established by the Council and regular participation in committee meetings in person or by telephone as necessary; (4) being able to attend or participate in Legislative hearings on important family law legislation, as needed.

There are no regularly scheduled meetings during the summer months, although issues may be the subject of electronic voting at other times. Under current bylaws, Council members are permitted only two absences per year from the monthly meetings; the third absence will result in automatic removal from Council. Pursuant to Council policy, excused absences from Council meetings are only permitted if the member has been authorized in advance by the Council Chair to attend another State Bar event, which conflicts with a Council meeting.

The Family Law Council looks forward to receipt of applications from Sections members who have the time and energy to make these commitments to the Council. Prospective applicants will also wish to review the bylaws of the Family Law Section, available at <http://www.michbar.org/family/pdfs/bylaws.pdf>. Notification of vacancies will be circulated in the *Family Law Journal* and the Family Law listserv.