

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING SECTION**

**February 16, 11:30 a.m.
University Club, East Lansing, Michigan**

I. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:45 a.m. by the chair, Lauren M. Underwood

II. A. Council Members Excused:

B. Council Officers and Members Present:

Lauren M. Underwood	George W. Gregory
Douglas G. Chalgian	

W. Josh Ard	Amy N. Morrissey
Daniel E. Cogan	Rebecca A. Schnelz
John R. Dresser	James B. Steward
Hon. Kathryn A. George	Thomas F. Sweeney
Mark K. Harder	Marlaine C. Teahan
Shaheen I. Imami	Robert P. Tiplady, II
Marilyn A. Lankfer	Joan C. Von Handorf
Douglas A. Mielock	

C. Others Present:

Cynthia S. Andrews	Lorraine F. New
Becky Beckler	Kurt A. Olson
Constance L. Brigman	Patricia M. Ouellette
Michael D. Holmes	Valerie L. Rice
Stephen W. Jones	Christine M. Savage
Mark E. Kellogg	Pamela J. Sisson
Michele C. Marquardt	James P. Spica
Daniel P. Marsh	Teresa S. Sullivan
J. R. McGraw	Derek A. Williams
Melisa Mysliwicz	Elizabeth K. Woodruff

III. Introduction of Guests: All attendees, including guests, introduced themselves.

- IV. Secretary's Report:** Daniel E. Cogan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was supported by Joan C. Von Handorf. This motion was approved.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer George W. Gregory provided the Treasurer's report. **See attachment.**
- VI. Chairperson's Report:** Chairperson Lauren M. Underwood recognized the likelihood that member Joan C. Von Handorf was attending her last meeting of the as she plans to relocate out of state. The members and those present acknowledged their appreciation for the work Ms. Von Handorf has provided to the Section over many years.
- VII. Report of the Committee on Special Projects:** No Report.
- VIII. Standing Committee Reports**
- A. Internal Governance**
1. **Budget** – *George W. Gregory, chair.* No report.
 2. **Bylaws** - *Marilyn K. Lankfer, chair.* No report.
 3. **Michael Irish Award** - *Brian V. Howe, chair.* No report.
 4. **Long-Range Planning** - *Lauren M. Underwood, chair.* No report.
 5. **Nominations** - *Henry M. Grix, chair.* No report.
 6. **Relations with the State Bar** - *John R. Dresser, chair.* No report.
 7. **Annual Meeting** - *Lauren M. Underwood, chair.* No report.
- B. Education & Advocacy Services for Section Members**
1. **Amicus Curiae** - *Mark K. Harder, chair.* No report.
 2. **Continuing Education & Annual Probate Institute** - *Nancy L. Little, chair.* No report.
 3. **Section Journal** - *Nancy L. Little, chair.* No report.

4. **State Bar Journal** - *Sebastian V. Grassi, Jr., chair*. No report.
5. **Pamphlets** - *Ellen Sugrue Hyman, chair*. No report.
6. **Electronic Communication** - *John R. Dresser, chair*. No report.
7. **Committee on Special Projects** – *Amy N. Morrissey/Richard J. Siriani, co-chairs*: No report.

C. Legislation and Lobbying

1. **Legislation** - *Harold Schuitmaker and John R. Dresser, co-chairs*:

Becky Beckler discussed various legislative activity.

James P. Spica representing Greenleaf Trust then led an extensive discussion including a presentation of case studies addressing the proposals for legislation to substantially alter the Rules Against Perpetuities in Michigan. **See attachments.**

2. **Michigan Trust Code** - *Mark K. Harder, chair*. No report.
3. **Statute of Repose** - *John A. Scott*. No report.

D. Ethics, Professionalism and Standards

1. **Ethics** - *Marilyn A. Lankfer, chair*. No report.
2. **Unauthorized Practice & Multidisciplinary Practice** - *Thomas F. Sweeney, chair*. No report.
3. **Specialization and Certification** - *Shaheen I. Imami and Richard A. Shapack, co-chairs*: No report.
4. **Practice Management** - *Richard J. Siriani, chair*. No report.

E. Administration of Justice

1. **Contested and Uncontested Probate Proceedings** – *Amy N. Morrissey, chair*. No report.
2. **Uniformity of Practice** - *Sebastian V. Grassi, Jr. and Joan Von Handorf, co-chairs*: No report.

F. Practice Issues, Related Areas & Liaisons

1. **Charitable Giving/Exempt Organizations** - *Robin D. Ferriby, chair*. No report.
2. **Estate Gift Tax** - *George W. Gregory, chair*. No report.
3. **Real Property Tax Issues** - *George W. Gregory, chair*. No report
4. **Guardianships and Conservatorships** - *Douglas G. Chalgian, chair*: No report.
5. **Business Law and Business Section Liaison** - *John R. Dresser, chair*
6. **Court Rules and Forms** - *Harold Schuitmaker and Joan C. Von Handorf, co-chairs*:
7. **Elder Law/Elder Law Section Liaison** – *W. Josh Ard*: for another meeting
8. **Family Law/Family Law Section Liaison** - *Patricia M. Ouellette*: No report.
9. **Real Property Law/Real Property Section Liaison** - *Richard Shapack*: No report.
10. **Tax Section Committee/ Tax Section Liaison** – *Lorraine F. New*: Lorraine F. New, liaison to the Tax Section Committee presented a Tax Nugget. **See attachment.**
11. **State Bar Liaison** - *Francine Cullari*: No report.
12. **Trust/Michigan Bankers Association Liaison** - *Daniel E. Cogan*: No report.
13. **Michigan Probate Judges** – No report.

IX. Other Business:

X. Hot Topics:

XI. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned by Chair Lauren M. Underwood at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas G. Chalgian