

Minutes	Committee on Resources for Self Represented Parties				
Meeting Date	October 8, 2010			Meeting Room	Judicial Council Room
Committee Member	Present	Excused	Committee Member	Present	Excused
Fred Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Backman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Jeffs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pat Bartholomew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jay Kessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judge John Baxter, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Lazaro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Jane Ciccarello	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christina Micken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judge Christine Decker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stewart Ralphs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judge Michael DiReda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judge James Shumate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carol Frank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep Neil Hanson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jessica Van Buren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff	Tim Shea				

Topic	Self Help Center	By	Mary Jane Ciccarello Jessica Van Buren
<p>Discussion: Ms. Ciccarello and Ms. Van Buren reported on the progress at the Self Help Center. The Center has expanded to 3 part-time attorneys serving a combined 53 hours per week plus one full-time attorney. This provides 3 attorneys at any given time, and covers all of the state except Districts 3, 4, and 5. The Center now provides a Spanish-speaking attorney 3 days per week.</p> <p>The grant money that funds the part-time attorneys has run out or will run out at the end of this fiscal year. The Judicial Council has allocated \$50,000 in one-time money to maintain operations for the balance of the fiscal year. Ms. Van Buren showed the growth in the number of contacts since 2009 that has been met by the additional part-time attorneys.</p>			

Topic	Website and forms development	By	Tim Shea
<p>Discussion: Mr. Shea reviewed the progress to date and the topics in the queue.</p>			

Topic	Unbundling efforts with the bar	By	Tim Shea
<p>Discussion: Mr. Shea reviewed the efforts with the Utah State Bar to encourage limited legal help as a resource for people who cannot afford full representation. He recommended that the Bar's lawyer referral service include more than the current four categories in which lawyers could declare their willingness to provide limited legal help. There are 16 categories on the Fifth District list. The lawyers on the aging limited legal help lists from the Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts should be advised that they should participate in the Bar's up-to-date program.</p>			

Mr. Jeffs said that limited legal help fits well with his efforts to try to connect lawyers without clients with pro se parties who need lawyers. Mr. Jeffs said that lawyers had not yet adopted limited legal help as a business model outside of the traditional areas, such as family law. Ms. Ciccarello said that she had seen some limited expansion into other areas.

Mr. Jeffs said that he is trying to convince the Bar Commission to use Bar resources to encourage lawyers to participate in his program and to market the program with the public. The common public perception is that a person cannot afford an attorney, so they don't even look. Among other messages, Mr. Jeffs wants to tell the public that buying legal services to protect and enforce one's legal rights has a valuable return.

Mr. Anderson explained his pricing and representation practices and suggested that firms recognize low fee and no fee services as part of a lawyer's billable hours.

Action: Mr. Jeffs will try to expand the categories in the lawyer referral service in which lawyers can declare their willingness to provide limited legal help. Mr. Jeffs will present his proposed program to the Bar Commission in October and feature limited legal help as a part of that program. He will report back on how this committee might be able to help implement the program.

Topic	Strategic planning	By	Tim Shea
<p>Discussion: Mr. Shea described the progress being made in each of the areas. Mr. Shea recommended that the committee eliminate as a strategic goal studying how to meet the needs of self-represented parties through the court's website. He explained that the workgroup developing webpages and forms focuses on the products that will be the most help to the self help center. The committee agreed.</p> <p>The committee discussed whether to retain as a strategic goal "Promote a legal service organization to recruit lawyers to provide such services and to raise and distribute funds to do so." Judge Baxter observed that, as stated, the goal is at odds with the Code of Judicial Conduct because judges cannot solicit funds. After discussion the consensus was to retain the goal but modify it to eliminate the reference to raising money and add instead expanding the availability of legal services.</p>			
<p>Action: Remove from the strategic plan studying how to meet the needs of self-represented parties through the court's website. Remove reference to raising money and add expanding the availability of legal services.</p>			