

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

Zoom Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Justice Deno Himonas, presiding

Attendees:

Judge Amber Mettler, Co-Chair
Steven Johnson
Matthew Page
Angela Allen
Elizabeth Wright
Monte Sleight

Excused:

Justice Deno Himonas, Co-Chair
Scotti Hill
Julie Emery
Jackie Morrison
Heather Farnsworth

Guests:

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Staff:

Marina Kelaidis, Recording Secretary

Dr. Alyx Mark, Wesleyan University

1. Action—Welcome and approval of the draft meeting minutes: (Justice Himonas)

Judge Amber Mettler welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes.

Elizabeth Wright moved to approve the September 15, 2020 minutes. Steve Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion—Update from Angela Allen on current casework and projects: (Angela Allen)

Ms. Allen reported she has been contacted by two different companies proposing to collaborate their services for pro se clients. One company is looking to provide services for pro se debt collection cases and the other assists clients in divorce matters. Through this collaboration, she will be a resource for the company and the company will list Ms. Allen as a referral. Ms. Allen suggested collaborations such as this may be good opportunities for the LPPs who do not currently work for a law firm. Both companies will be applying for approval through the Regulatory Reform Sandbox.

Ms. Allen also reported that she will be meeting with the other 3 LPPs this week, all of whom have busy caseloads. The LPPs will be discussing ways to utilize the press attention surrounding the swearing in of the nine new LPPs. Ms. Allen reported one of the new nine LPPs does not work for a law firm and they have discussed having this LPP reach out to some of the local solo practitioners in her area to offer her services as a referral resource.

Matthew Page suggested the Committee needs to develop a method for tracking the number of cases the LPPs are handling, as well as outcomes. Although the LPP program is currently receiving a lot of support from the judiciary and others, Mr. Page expressed the importance of measuring the success of the program to foster continuous support in the future. Ms. Allen agreed and proposed creating a private Facebook group for all of the current LPPs to utilize for case reporting. In the group, Ms. Allen could link an excel sheet for the LPPs to report to quarterly for measuring the number of cases retained, number of cases settled, number of consults, method for settlement, etc. Ms. Allen will work with Scotti Hill to create the Facebook group.

3. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee: (Judge Mettler, Jackie Morrison, Scotti Hill,Carolynn Clark)

Judge Mettler reported the Subcommittee met last week and discussed how to incorporate Southern Utah University's Undergraduate Legal Studies program into the rule. After much discussion, the Subcommittee proposed that it is not feasible for the Committee to propose rule changes with each new iteration of a legal studies program. Judge Mettler reported that Jackie Morrison circulated the core competency sheet at their meeting that was created by the initial education subcommittee. The Subcommittee recommended for the Committee to review the core competencies to determine if any changes need to be made. The Subcommittee also recommended for the Committee to create a subcommittee or group that will be responsible for determining if an educational program qualifies under the rule. Carolynn Clark proposed three areas of analysis to be evaluated by such a subcommittee. 1) Does the program qualify as one of the educational requirements under the rule, 2) Does the program meet the standards of the LPP core competencies, and 3) Does the program's internship/externship meet the standards of the substantive hours' requirement?

Ms. Wright suggested the Committee needs to have a uniform application so that we are prepared to defend decisions regarding rejection into the program. Monte Sleight agreed that program evaluation is going to be an ongoing issue and the Committee needs to

formulate a group to address this. Mr. Sleight also suggested that this should not be the responsibility of the Bar. The Subcommittee will be discussing this topic further.

4. Discussion—Update from the Bar: (Elizabeth Wright, Scotti Hill, Matthew Page).

Ms. Wright reported November 1, 2020 is the application deadline for the March 2021 iteration of the LPP exam. She also reported that she is working on the memo she will present to the Supreme Court regarding the combination of the LPP rules with the Rules of Professional Conduct. Ms. Wright is aiming to have this memo go before the Supreme Court on their November 2, 2020 agenda.

Mr. Page reported he is currently focusing on social media efforts to reach attorneys around the State to address any misinformation as well as a lack of information about the LPP program. He reported the Bar is working to address the treatment of LPPs among members of the Bar through this marketing approach.

5. Discussion—Update on rural outreach: (Steve Johnson)

Nothing new to report.

6. Discussion—Update on outreach efforts: (Julie Emery, Monte Sleight)

Nothing new to report.

7. Discussion—Old business/new business: (all)

Nothing new to report.

8. Adjournment and next meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2020 from 12:00p.m.–1:30p.m. via Zoom.