

## Meeting Minutes

### Utah Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Regulatory Reform

#### Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Workgroup.

July 10, 2025

12:00 – 1:00

#### Hybrid and In-person

Attended Online: Ada Miller, Emily Lee, Jon Wayas, Courtney Peterson-Rhead

Attended In-Person: Maryt Fredrickson, Andrea Donahue, Michael Barnhill, Jackie Morrison

Excused: Nick Stiles, L. Monte Sleight, Judge Koch, Lindsey Brandt

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1. Maryt welcomed everyone.
2. Approval of the minutes:
  - Fix two names in the meeting minutes from last time
  - Motion to approve with name changes: Emily; Jon seconded, carried with no nay votes.
3. Introduction of Courtney Peterson-Rhead, IAALS, Allied Legal Professionals
4. Jon reported on law firm outreach
  - Slow responses so far due to summer schedules and recent holiday.
  - Jon will forward a spreadsheet of all firms with LPPs that can be used as a starting point for additional contact, to see how LPPs are working in firms and if firms have any plans to encourage current paralegals to pursue an LPP license.
  - Discussion of paralegals in law firms who earn high salaries; less financial incentive to pursue an LPP license.
  - Not many LPPs in landlord-tenant/eviction sphere because most firms help landlords instead of tenants. Also, not many people taking the LPP exam for this area.
  - 6 out of 8 districts have LPPs. The two that don't also have very few attorneys, i.e., legal deserts.
  - Legal Deserts. Emily noted the initial interest in having LPPs to help reduce legal deserts.

- Jackie noted that the experience hours required to become an LPP makes it difficult for rural paralegals because they need experience under an attorney; in legal deserts there are already no or few attorneys, so they would need to come to a more populated area then come back. Once relocated for education, less likely to relocate back.
- Discussion of the experiential hours as a barrier to entry; whether modification of that requirement would be warranted; role of remote training and remote testing; LPPs can use any legal work for most of the experiential hours; no particular data on comparing experiential hours requirements between states.
- Once an LLP is located in a rural area, there is good work being done.

#### 5. Beginnings of Survey to Send out to Paralegals & Others

- It is a good idea to send out surveys
- The draft surveys can be circulated for redline and comments between meetings
- Scope of Workgroup. A substantive discussion occurred to clarify the scope of the workgroup. The current scope, included in the previous agenda, was to look at the LPP program but there are people in the Sandbox doing LPP-like work, namely the ALPs. This is a small number. Right now, the entities the individuals work for are authorized via the Sandbox, not the individuals, and their practice areas include those not covered by the LPP program.
- Discussion of needing to find a pathway for those through this working group and multiple people previously contemplated that as being a part of the scope of work.
- Discussion of the difference between LPPs and CJAs. One difference is that LLPs can charge money, even if they do not or do pro bono work, but CJAs do not and are employed by an entity. The distinction based on who pays for the service may not be the distinguishing factor.
- Discussion of alternate pathways to licensure among different groups (attorneys, LPPs, and CJAs) and whether same regulatory structure applies for oversight among all groups.
- Other topics included: whether CJA experience could also provide experience hours for LPP work; should practice areas for LPPs be expanded and asking about that through the surveys; and what the comparative advantages are between Sandbox entities and LPPs, which could also be asked about through surveys.
- Expanding practice areas can be a barrier to entry, but may not be the primary driver in generating LPPs

- Arizona has expansive programs and a lot of LPPs
- Colorado only allows LPP practice in one area, family law, and has lots of LPPs
- In addition to practice areas discussed by the LPP program's committee, Michael noted that small claims is another area where LPP work may add value because many payday lenders in debt collection do the work themselves. Tax system has "enrolled agents," similar to what exists in the immigration sphere. Expungements and misdemeanors are areas allowed in other states.

Meeting closed at 1:00pm.