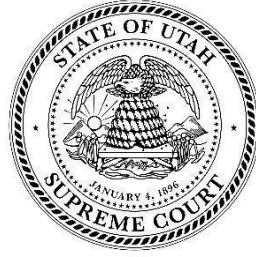


# UTAH SUPREME COURT AD HOC COMMITTEE



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Utah Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Regulatory Reform**  
**Community Justice Advocates Work Group**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2026**  
**12:00 - 1:00**  
**Online via WebEx**

Attendance by WebEx: Maryt Fredrickson, Nick Stiles, Bre Hickerson, Judge Richard Mrazik, Dr. Jayme Walters, Andrea Donahue, Stacy Haacke, Hayley Cousin, Lakshmi Vanderwerf, Megan Connelly, Tanya Rosado

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1. Welcome
2. Review of Meeting Minutes (Tab 1)
  - Approved as amended.
3. Preliminary summary for interim report – Continuing to compile and refine the list of CJA characteristics (Tab 2)
  - Megan suggested the interim report be more explicit about regulation and collaboration with regulatory partners, such as where that is housed for ongoing implementation of the program. It might be helpful to get input from the court and the current entities on this, and to consider available resources.
  - Judge Mrazik noted the tripartite approach to developing, supervising, and implementing the CJA programs. He noted that reference to “sponsoring entities” is ambiguous and no one really knows that that means yet. If there are concerns about who should be trusted to develop and deploy a CJA curriculum, we should discuss that to clarify.
  - CJAU and USU currently develop and offer their respective CJA programs. Discussed how to set this up to allow other programs to do that, i.e., how

- would we want to monitor and supervise those various programs; what standards would be appropriate or minimum requirements. Other states have mandated that there has to be ethics training and substantive/procedural legal training as part of CJA programs. Alaska did something similar by providing minimum requirements for their program, including ethics. USU created a committee to help identify the goals for the training and then worked backwards. Lawyers, debt professionals, and other stakeholders served on that committee and like CJAU's program, it has evolved over time.
- Judge Mrazik suggested the two current entities were successful in building out their programs because they knew what they were doing before they started. We could consider a requirement that a licensed attorney and a licensed social worker/professor be involved in development of a program. We could also require that an accredited institution be the one to implement these programs. Jayme suggested adopting one approach for now but adding a second approach for non-legal nonprofits later in the program.
  - Lakshmi noted that there are organizations that have lawyers but don't practice in the same areas of law that we would want CJAs at that organization to work in. For example, if a social worker at a hospital is helping with a patient with debt, domestic violence, or housing issues, any lawyer that works at the hospital likely wouldn't have experience in those areas. These are the types of orgs we want to have CJAs, so the question then becomes whether the attorneys at those orgs have enough experience to develop an effective CJA program to address legal issues/practice areas they don't frequently work in. Judge Mrazik noted it may be more more likely that they would utilize existing CJA programs, rather than develop their own, and then just place a CJA in the hospital. He also cautioned that we not to impose stricter requirements than we already apply to attorneys representing the people we want CJAs to be able to help. The current system does not require specialized training or certifications once an attorney passes the bar exam, which is general in nature. Maryt noted there are some areas that require special training, like capital cases and GALs, although those are required for appointed attorneys, not private ones. There was some discussion of the appellate roster and mediation roster and the requirements for those.
  - Jayme noted that developing the curriculum comes with more responsibility than just developing the training, because it includes supervision and continuing education after a CJA is licensed.

- Andrea brought up the complaint process for CJAs and noted that this ties into the back-end qualification for entities implementing programs as well. She noted that we should be mindful of the interplay between organizations developing these programs and who might deal with complaints.
- Maryt mentioned the idea that we want the CJA license to follow the person instead of the entity and how this ties into the discussion of the complaint procedures. She asked what the current process is for CJAs when a complaint is received. Hayley explained that CJAU is responsible for dealing with complaints for individual CJAs, and then CJAU can be sanctioned but not individuals. Andrea noted that the current scheme is set up this way to require entity-level regulation.
- CJA certifications are currently portable among partner organizations of the CJA entity's umbrella agency (such as one CJAU-supported CJA moving from one partnering organization to another). The issue is that CJA certifications aren't currently portable between umbrella agencies (e.g. a CJA could not move from CJAU to USU). Maryt asked if a CJA left one of those entities and then wanted to provide advice and guidance to someone at church who was experiencing family violence, if they were allowed to do so. Hayley noted that we haven't tested that model and no state really has yet, so we don't have much to go on there. Maryt asked Judge Mrazik if he thought CJAs should be able to operate outside of their association with one of the entities. He reiterated that anchoring CJAs to entities may not provide any benefit or protection. Professionals like lawyers and accountants aren't required to practice at an entity, so it may not make sense to require CJAs to do so.
- Nick asked about re-certification for training organizations and how to structure some form of ongoing supervision for these programs.
- Stacy noted that for mediation training, you have to be qualified to be a trainer. To be a trainer, you have to have attended a training program and then have ongoing requirements to fulfill. She noted that providing standards for CJA programs in an analogous way could help limit the amount of training programs available for CJAs to ones that we believe adhere to those standards. Judge Mrazik asked if the mediation training program is required or if any attorney can be hired as a mediator without that training. It is only required for the court-approved roster of mediators. Retired judges and senior attorneys serve as mediators and aren't necessarily on the court-approved roster.

- Drafting CJA rules may take longer than the Sandbox sunset deadline. A set of standing orders to protect and perpetuate the status quo while these rules are being worked on would be helpful.
- Jayme noted that her sabbatical project for next Fall could be a good time to make data-informed decisions about the CJA program, so buying time would facilitate that as well. She noted that it would be easier to make some of these decisions with more data.
- Nick noted that we hope to have a good structural start for the CJA program even as we continue collecting data. Maryt noted that figuring out the central entity for oversight may take more time as well.
- Megan noted that it would be helpful to figure out a funding mechanism for the people that are helping build out this program in the future. Andrea emphasized that point and talked about how members of the Utah Office of AI Policy met with the AI work group and explained that they have roughly 5 staff members overseeing 3 entities right now. Making sure that we have resources to manage these programs well is critical. Andrea reminded us to be realistic about a budget for this because the sandbox budget was originally much higher than it ended up being.

#### In discussion for 2026

- Maryt noted that it would be very beneficial to invite I4J to come and talk at one of our meetings.
- Hayley noted that inviting Mark McCall would be really helpful as well, because he oversees AZ's programs and could offer insight into their training programs and oversight, etc.
- Maryt noted that Hayley and Jayme had previously mentioned that inviting individual CJAs would be helpful. She asked if that would be comfortable for the two entities and whether that would be a good idea. They agreed.
- There was some discussion of other Sandbox entities to hear from, who do not currently fit in a set working group subject matter area.

#### 4. Closing and Action Items

- The interim summary will be updated and circulated to the group for redlines before our large group meeting. Jayme and Hayley will pull together some draft requirements to add to that summary.
- The full ad hoc committee, with all four working groups, will meet February 4.