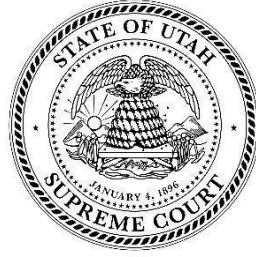


# UTAH SUPREME COURT AD HOC COMMITTEE



## Meeting Minutes

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

#### Community Justice Advocates Work Group

Thursday, March 26, 2026

12:00 - 1:00

Online via WebEx

Attendance by WebEx: Maryt Fredrickson, 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. Court Feedback Discussion

- Maryt summarized our presentation to the court and its feedback. Haley noted a typo in the written summary and clarified that CJAs do provide legal advice, not just legal resources, and the group discussed that some can act on behalf of clients in certain instances. Those will be corrected for the final report.

#### 4. D.C.'s New CJW Program

- Haley noted that the DC program is broadening the scope of authority CJWs have (e.g. allowing CJAs to help prepare discovery and represent clients in court, etc.).
- Judge Mrazik noted that DC's program also requires CJWs to be affiliated with legal services organizations, which narrows their scope substantially. He reiterated our group's position that CJAs need more flexibility and that it would be much more valuable to A2J goals to allow CJW/CJAs to provide assistance outside of legal

services orgs which have grant-based limitations. He compared the CJA program to CPR training and noted that we train a myriad of people how to perform CPR and could view the CJA services similarly to help triage a client's legal needs.

#### 5. Continued Discussion of Front-End, Intermediate, and Back-end Controls

- The group discussed the various options, pros, and cons of where to house the regulatory structure. The group discussed DOPL, with an MOU; the bar; and the court. The bar affords several advantages, including the disciplinary office and its volume of expertise for back-end controls. It is also a familiar place already for the public to direct complaints related to the practice of law. And disciplinary actions can also translate to teaching moments and regulatory changes when the front-end, back-end, and intermediate controls are housed at the same entity. DOPL also has an infrastructure in place, but many CJAs do not/ would not have another license that places them within the scope of DOPL.
- The group also discussed the need for an ongoing CJA advisory committee, like we have for LPPs. A combined advisory board for limited licenses may be more efficient. Other states have examples of combining boards.
- The group discussed how performance complaints are currently handled.
- The group discussed whether a complaint-review process, like OPC's review committee would be useful, but perhaps similar to the bar's committee on civility and professionalism. The group also discussed what the UPL committee does, and noted a recent change to a statute imposing criminal penalties for UPL.
- The group discussed mandatory reporting, which apply to legal professionals, doctors, and others. The group also discussed the way brief advice and limited scope services address confidentiality concerns where there is no ongoing relationship.
- Maryt mentioned that there is a code of conduct for mediation and there could be an analog for us to look to as well.

#### 6. Closing

##### **Timeline for Remaining Work**

- The group discussed whether to draft rules for our recommendation or draft a framework and principles for the court to consider, before drafting rules.
- Judge Mrazik noted that having a framework of principles, rules, goals, etc. would be valuable and then we could draft rules consistent with that framework. He noted that the process for rule changes is time consuming and often involves multiple rounds of revisions, etc. before adoption.
- Maryt asked Dr. Walters how the work she will be doing on her sabbatical connects to our group's work. Dr. Walters noted that the initial goal was to have a

few broad rules to establish the program and then a framework derived from those rules. If the Court wants more data to support the rulemaking, perhaps moving from a broad framework to rules would be beneficial. She offered that we could have a combination approach where we present an understanding of how the CJA program should work and some related rules and then continue to develop the program holistically as we go. Maryt noted that the court would likely be amiable to that middle-ground approach.

- Megan asked when the final recs are due. Maryt noted that the report will be wrapped up in August and then we'll need to present that report to the Court in early Fall. She reminded the group that we will have 2 new justices join later this year, and we'll need to be mindful of that as we look to schedule that presentation.

#### **Who to meet with next & other collaboration**

- The group agreed that meeting with I4J and individual CJAs would be helpful.
- Janine noted that she would like to hear from individual CJAs. Hayley asked that we organize questions for the CJAs beforehand to help them prepare. Maryt noted that it would be helpful to have someone from each CJA organization (CJAU and UVU) but as many CJAs that would have valuable insights would be welcome at the meeting.
- Megan noted that it may be helpful to bring in folks from OPC and/or bar leadership to offer their thoughts at a later meeting (May or June). Andrea noted that Maribeth and Elizabeth may also be willing to chat with us as well.