

Meeting Minutes
Utah Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on
Regulatory Reform
Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Workgroup
April 9, 2026
Noon to 1pm
Remote

Attendance: Maryt Fredrickson, Bre Hickerson, Nick Stiles, Andrea Donahue, Jon Wayas, Michael Barnhill, Jackie Morrison, Emily Lee, Lindsey Brandt, Tanya Rosado

1. Welcome and Review of Meeting Minutes (Tab 1)
 - Minutes were approved.

2. Nick introduced John Seegrist, a practicing Utah LPP, and invited him to discuss his LPP practice his thoughts on changing LPPs' scope.
 - First, the group introduced themselves to John.
 - John started by telling us he practices almost exclusively on family law matters, and that housing and debt collection often do not have any money to pay an LPP. He reiterated the value of LPPs in family law and suggested that we consider expanding LPPs' scope to include expungement, simple probate, and family law-adjacent areas, like guardianship, and uncontested adoption cases, e.g., stepparent and foster parent adoptions. He noted he's received requests to help with those kinds of cases in the past. Based on his experience teaching LPP students, expanding LPPs' scope in these areas would likely facilitate more interest in the program.
 - For adoptions, the state does reimburse some legal costs, but reimbursement is limited, so finding ways to reduce those costs, by using LPPs instead of attorneys, could help allow families to better afford advocates for those cases. There are few attorneys who specialize in that area (three in SLC) but a high demand based on a recent agency report. The lack of attorneys to assist leads to a long wait time for the children and families.
 - Nick noted a few ways we've discussed for maximizing the impact of the LPP program: (1) expanding LPP practice areas or (2) limiting the practice areas but expanding the scope within the ones LPPs can practice in.
 - The group discussed how expanding the family law practice may be a way to do that, by adding family-adjacent services within that licensure, including practice authorization before commissioners. The exam could be amended to add more questions, and some practice hours could be added for the additional

- areas. Expanding the scope of one area is much less labor intensive than managing multiple areas.
- LPPs can serve the people I need who do not qualify for legal services but cannot afford an attorney. Single-income clients average 60-80k a year, and his dual-income clients average around 100k a year.
 - There has been minimal interest in LPPs practicing in debt collection, with no one taking that test in the most recent exam and only one person taking the landlord-tenant exam. John noted that people in need of that kind of legal help generally cannot afford that kind of help, and the students he teaches for the LPP program are not usually interested in debt or housing practice.
 - John noted a lack of LPPs in rural areas. The 1500 hours practice requirement can be a barrier in rural communities because there is much less demand for legal work there.
 - If practice areas became more limited, like just for family law, licenses for debt collection and landlord-tenant could be considered grandfathered in. That would affect only a very small number of LLPs (maybe 5).
 - Jon reminded us that LPPs in AZ have a much wider scope and instead of listing what LPPs can do, the AZ rules list what LPPs can't do. For example, LPPs can't deal with the division of a business if that is a part of a divorce or stay on a case if something is appealed. Nick noted our guest from AZ will be at the next meeting, so we'll continue to get insight into AZ's program.

3. We then discussed the current forms-based practice requirement.

- John noted that family law cases require a lot of customization and that requiring a specific form doesn't allow for enough tailoring cause issues for LPPs. He noted that the forms usually include only the minimum required content, and LPPs with the experience required already know what needs to be in the forms beyond those minimum requirements.
- Jon reiterated how few forms are available and that figuring out which form is the right one for a given legal issue can be challenging with that limitation. LPPs practicing within firms also have their own forms that the firms developed and prefer. Some firms may be more likely to invest in LPPs and pay for LPP license/exam fees, etc. if LPPs weren't bound to the court forms.
- The idea behind the forms-based-practice limitation was probably to regulate LPP practice and protect the public. The group discussed how the forms limitation is actually being used against LPPs, by challenging the adequacy of a form or its modifications as being outside the scope of LPP practice. That

takes litigant resources to resolve, which is contrary to the goals of the LPP program to limit expenses for people in need of legal help. The group concurred there are compelling reasons to move away from forms-based practice.

- The group discussed the need to engage with the bench and bar on a shift away from forms-based practice. Some pushback with changes should be expected.
- Jon noted that it would be really helpful to talk to an attorney who is working with LPPs now to get a better understanding of how they view LPPs' value and scope.

4. Action Items and Conclusion

- Nick summed up the group's position on these issues: (1) that expansion of LPP's scope of practice in family law is appropriate, as well as elimination of debt/housing areas (with a grandfather clause for LPPs already licensed in those areas) and (2) elimination of forms-based practice. The group agreed.
- Andrea noted that this discussion has helped us evaluate the different tools we have for each goal and which ones are serving those goals best (e.g., LPPs not serving debt collection clients, but CJAs potentially filling that gap, etc.).
- Nick reminded us that Mark McCall will join us at the next meeting to tell us about AZ's LPP program.