

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Utah Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on**  
**Regulatory Reform**  
**Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Workgroup**  
**March 12, 2026**  
**Noon to 1pm**  
**Remote**

Attendance: Maryt Fredrickson, Bre Hickerson, Lindsey Brandt, Jon Wayas, Andrea Donahue, Michael Barnhill, Tanya Rosado, Courtney Petersen-Rhead, Tonya Wright

---

1. Welcome and Review of Meeting Minutes (Tab 1)
  - Minutes were reviewed and approved.
  
2. Review of Court's Feedback from our Preliminary Presentation (Tab 2)
  - Maryt summarized our preliminary discussion with the Court.
  - As part of that, Maryt asked Jon if the LPP program would qualify the U's new Bachelor of Law graduates, and he reiterated that the program's education requirements now encompass all Bachelor's degrees.
  - Maryt also noted the need to collaborate with the existing LPP committee to discuss potential rule changes prior to presenting those final recommendations to the court.
  
3. Tonya Wright – Insights from Outside the Wasatch Front
  - Maryt introduced Tonya Wright as an LPP from outside the Wasatch Front to discuss her experience.
  - Tonya was one of the first LPPs and has been practicing for a while. She is licensed in all three current practice areas (housing, debt, and family).
  - Tonya noted that people always ask whether she sees more demand for LPP services in rural areas and that she really doesn't have a good answer for that. However, she is the only LPP within an hour of her and has seen a lot of demand for her services.
  - She noted that she is not doing a lot of LPP practice right now because of various roadblocks and because she is currently a corporate paralegal in a firm with a lot of litigation. But she currently has 2 LPP cases (both family law) and she handled 1 debt issue this year.
  - Maryt asked Tonya to expand upon what roadblocks she has run into. Tonya noted a few things:

- (1) Forms-based practice was messy. PDF to Word conversions were frustrating and led to extensive time for reformatting, etc. Now, OCAP is going away, so there aren't even court forms available to LPPs. Tonya asked Lindsey if she has run into any objections from judges or opposing counsel when filing court documents. Lindsey noted that she just includes a footnote with a citation to the rule stating that the form was prepared using relevant portions of the court document and doesn't run into a ton of pushback about this.
- (2) Time constraints are another barrier Tonya noted. Client expectations are hard to manage in complicated cases, such as contested divorce cases. Not being able to engage in discovery is particularly frustrating.
- (3) The current 3 practice areas are the most common kind of cases for self-represented litigants. Tonya noted there are lots of other forms available for different kinds of cases, like probate and expungement. She mentioned that if people can fill out these forms and file them themselves, LPPs could be capable of helping clients prepare those, too. So, the practice area limitations may be excluding a lot of people who would consider working as LPPs in that capacity for matters that would take a lot less time.
- (4) Tonya expanded on issues in the debt collection and housing practice areas. Outside of LPP issues, she noted that Utah debt laws strongly favor plaintiffs in many ways and the economy is worsening. Other groups and committees are considering ways to make the debt case process fairer to defendants; however, there is often no defense because the debt is valid and the client will have to pay it. Maryt asked Tonya whether debt clients can pay for her help, and Tonya noted that she has mostly done debt work pro bono. But the clients that can't pay anything at all usually just throw away the summons and take the default judgment. Most clients can't pay much but can often afford to pay her \$50 or so to help, and the time required is minimal (maybe 1 hour for simple debt cases). It is very unclear whether LPPs can practice in small claims cases, so clarity on that would be helpful. She argued this would be a valuable area for her to practice in and she would choose to do so.
- (5) Housing clients are complicated. Often clients need to be told to move to avoid having to pay treble damages if they refuse. Many clients need to file a Notice of Deficient Conditions, but there is no form that LPPs can use to file that. Those types of issues do not lead LPPs to want to work on

housing cases, because there is so little that they can do to help and the clients are already financially underwater if they are being evicted.

- Maryt asked Tonya if there were any other barriers to entry. She noted that she felt the real barrier is interest in this program. Lindsey echoed that and noted that the draw of the LPP program is to be able to work for yourself and build your own business, but leaving a firm that is paying you a competitive paralegal salary is a huge risk that might not be worth it financially.
- Maryt asked if it would be valuable to have someone from AZ come and discuss allowing LPPs to practice in more areas and that discussion we've had about expanding the number of areas and sacrificing depth of practice within those areas. Jon and Andrea noted the administrative demands on the bar to develop exams and such for each practice area as something to think about as well. Jon noted that another difficulty of adding practice areas including small claims is identifying who would train LPPs in those areas.

#### 4. Court Feedback Discussion

Forms. Rule 14-802 "(C) completing forms approved by the Judicial Council or preparing documents that are consistent with the relevant portions of the Judicial Council-approved forms;"

- Maryt asked if this language has created any issues in LPP practice, and Lindsey noted that this really hasn't been an issue for her. The judges she has been in front of did not analyze whether her pleadings were consistent with forms, etc. and refused to deal with that issue even if opposing counsel raised it. However, there is usually an attorney that also signs off on Lindsey's docs. Jon noted that LPPs that aren't with firms run into this issue more regularly and that it is more of a judicial education issue because they may not have any knowledge about LPPs or what they are allowed to do.
- Lindsey reiterated that the Rules also expressly include the requirements for what should be filed in the forms. Jon noted that he has heard from other practicing LPPs that this really does continue to be an issue.

#### 5. Action Items and Conclusion

- Courtney will invite Mark McCall from AZ to provide insight about their LPP program.
- Maryt noted that our report is due to the Court in late summer or early fall. Jon noted that the LPP group has been on a break for a little while but will reconvene to discuss some of the ideas we have and we can coordinate a time in the future to collaborate with them on rule changes.