

# Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

## Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2020

Zoom Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

*Justice Deno Himonas, presiding*

### **Attendees:**

Judge Amber Mettler, Co-Chair  
Elizabeth Wright  
Steven Johnson  
Matthew Page  
Monte Sleight

### **Excused:**

Justice Deno Himonas, Co-Chair  
Jackie Morrison  
Heather Farnsworth  
Julie Emery  
Angela Allen

### **Staff:**

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar  
Marina Kelaidis, Recording Secretary

### **Guests:**

Anna Carpenter, SJ Quinney College of Law

#### **1. Action—Welcome and approval of the draft meeting minutes: (Justice Himonas)**

Judge Amber Mettler welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the May 19, 2020 minutes.

*Steve Johnson moved to approve the May 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Scotti Hill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

#### **2. Discussion—Update from Angela Allen on current casework and projects: (Angela Allen)**

This matter is postponed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **3. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee: (Judge Mettler, Jackie Morrison, Scotti Hill, Anna Carpenter)**

Judge Amber Mettler reported Ana Carpenter has recused herself from serving on the subcommittee. The subcommittee does not intend to fill this vacancy at this time.

The Subcommittee recently conducted video meetings with Michelle Pistone from Villanova University and Stacy Butler from the University of Arizona, as well as with all of the current LPPs. Judge Mettler reported these interviews were very successful and provided important insights on potential methods for expanding the LPP program. The Subcommittee is continuing to schedule additional interviews. As a final product, the Subcommittee will prepare a report summarizing their findings.

**4. Discussion—Update on evaluation project: (Anna Carpenter)**

Professor Anna Carpenter reported they have scheduled another round of interviews to be conducted in August 2020.

**5. Discussion—Update on Regulatory Reform: (Justice Himonas)**

Steve Johnson reported the comment period for the rules and standing order expires on July 23, 2020. The Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct is reviewing each comment as they are submitted. The Task Force will be meeting in August 2020 to review the comments after the comment period has closed. No changes to the rules or standing order will be made until the end of August / first of September 2020 time period.

**6. Discussion—The LPP Program and combating racism: (Justice Himonas)**

This matter is postponed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

**7. Discussion—Update from the Bar: (Elizabeth Wright, Scotti Hill, Matthew Page)**

Elizabeth Wright reported she has prepared a draft combining the Rules of Professional Conduct with the LPP rules. Ms. Wright is working with Mr. Johnson to review and edit the draft proposal and plans to present a redline version of the rules at the next Committee meeting.

Scotti Hill reported there are eight applicants for the August 2020 iteration of the LPP exam. They will be conducting the exam in-person at the Bar and following social distancing guidelines by adequately spacing the test takers in the exam room. The Bar is now working with ExamSoft to provide the test electronically for future exams.

Matthew Page reported there was a large uptick in media traffic following the sunset of Washington's Limited License Legal Technician program. The Bar issued a statement in support of Utah's LPP program and have continued to support the statement with articles on law.com, law306.com, and several others detailing what Utah's program is and how it is working to increase access to justice. Most of the media inquiries they are receiving are asking how many cases Utah's LPPs are taking, what kinds of cases are

they handling, and what their experiences are. Mr. Page is working with the LPPs to gather some of this data to report how Utah's LPPs are making a difference and reiterate that point that the LPPs clients are people who would have otherwise been unrepresented.

**8. Discussion—Update on rural outreach:** (Steve Johnson)

Mr. Johnson reported there has been little change to rural outreach efforts since the last meeting, due to schools remaining closed. However, once schools resume, he will continue with outreach at Snow College and Southern Utah University. Monte Sleight reported the Utah State Board of Regents plans to have classes resume fall 2020.

**9. Discussion—Update on outreach efforts and exposure to potential LPPs:** (Julie Emery, Monte Sleight)

Mr. Sleight reported he is working with LDS Business College and their paralegal program. There has been a slight drop in enrollment in the LPP classes, however, Mr. Sleight reported this is likely due to the pandemic as well as summer semester when enrollment numbers are historically lower.

**10. Discussion—Old business/new business:** (all)

Mr. Page reminded the Committee that the links to the LPP marketing videos are up on the Bar's YouTube page. Mr. Page encouraged the Committee members to continue sharing those videos and getting them out to as many people as possible.

**11. Adjournment and next meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 21, 2020 from 12:00p.m.–1:30p.m. via Zoom.