

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Friday, November 10, 2023

VIA ZOOM

In Attendance: President Erik Christiansen, and Commissioners Tom Bayles, J. Brett Chambers, Matt Hansen, Greg Hoole, Mark Morris, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, Kim Cordova, Traci Gunderson, Cara Tangaro, Tyler Young, Rick Hoffman, Shawn Newell, and John Rees.

Ex-Officio Members: Nate Alder, Katie Lawyer, Kristin Woods, and Lauren Shurman.

Not in Attendance: Ex-Officio members Ashley Beihl, Camila Moreno, Anaya Gayle, Margaret Plane, Tony Graf, Dean Elizabeth Warner, and Dean David Moore.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, and Utah Court Representative Nick Stiles.

1. President's Welcome and Reports

1.1 Welcome

Mr. Christiansen discussed UMBA gala, where Kim Cordova won lawyer of the year. Shawn Newell also won the community award at the event.

1.2 Lawyer-Legislator Breakfast

Mr. Christiansen informed the Commission that the Lawyer-Legislative breakfast at the State Capitol will be on November 15 at 7:30 am in the board room and encouraged attendance.

1.3 Reminder: Fall Forum

The Fall Forum will be on November 17 at the Little America. Ms. Woods mentioned LALU was hosting its Gay-la on the Thursday before the Fall Forum (November 16).

1.4 Reminder: Commission Election

Mr. Christensen discussed open seats and deadlines, with written notice being due January 2, 2024 and commissioner petitions due February 1, 2024.

2. Action Items

2.1 Approve Financial Audit: Rick Hoffman and Nathan Severin

Mr. Hoffman presented the summary of the financial audit. He noted the auditors had issued a clean opinion with no notes of risk.

Motion: Mr. Hoffman moved to approve the audit, including the budget and the cash reserve recommendations. Ms. Mancuso-Smith seconded the motion. The Commission

unanimously approved the motion.

2.2 Approve YLD ABA Delegate

YLD gets to elect a young lawyer delegate to the Commission. The initially nominated candidate is relocating to Chicago. The Commission discussed the importance of having the delegate able to attend Commission meetings and other events. The YLD had provided Ezzy Khaosanga as an alternative. The Commission discussed the nomination.

Ms. Cordova made a motion to approve Ezzy Khasosanga as the YLD delegate, Ms. Tangaro seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

2.3 Approve Scholarships to Spring Convention

Mr. Christiansen discussed offering some scholarships for young lawyers to come to the Spring Convention in St. George. Total expenses for attending are about \$750-800 per person. The Commission discussed how many scholarships should be offered, and how it fits with the strategic plan. Mr. Young suggested doing scholarships from outer regions to Fall Forum in SLC and the Commission discussed. The Commission discussed the possibility of doing more scholarships for smaller amounts instead of 1-2 covering the full amount of expenses, as well as doing registration waivers to different people who don't normally attend.

Motion: Ms. Tangaro made a motion to approve a number of scholarships where registration costs would be waived, and recipients would be reimbursed approximately \$350 for travel and/or lodging expenses. Mr. Young seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

3. Reports

3.1 Sandbox Report: Andrea Donahue

Ms. Donahue discussed the new chapter of the Sandbox, which is moving into a stabilization phase. Ms. Donahue discussed the role of the Sandbox within the Bar, and thanked the Bar for their support. Ms. Donahue discussed the pause in applications, which should re-open soon. Mr. Christiansen asked about resources provided to Ms. Donahue and the Sandbox and asked if additional resources were needed.

3.2 State Audit of the Bar: Elizabeth Wright

Ms. Wright discussed the entrance meeting the Bar had with the State Auditor's office, and discussed the individuals from the auditor's office and the court who would be conducting the audit. Ms. Wright informed the Commission that at the initial meeting, the auditors had discussed application/admission fees. Mr. Christiansen mentioned the new rule requiring licensing fee amounts to be approved on an annual basis. Ms. Wright said she and Nathan will work with the Budget and Finance Committee as necessary on the audit.

3.3 Report on Northwest Bar Leaders Conference: Kim Cordova

Ms. Cordova reported on the Northwest Bar Leaders Conference, which she and Ms. Wright attended in Idaho. Other states are seeing similar issues to those in Utah, including to the need for lawyers in rural areas and working with their legislators.

3.4 Legislative Outreach Update: Maribeth LeHoux

Ms. LeHoux provided updates on the Bar's legislative initiatives. Mr. Christiansen talked about the Government Relations Committee meeting year-round, rather than just during the legislative session. The Commission discussed the legislators interested in having Sections to weigh in and provide expertise and how Sections can provide expertise outside of the Bar taking an official position.

4. Information Items

4.1 JPEC Surveys

Mr. Adler discussed surveys and the need for people to be involved and complete the surveys. He walked through the materials provided. The Commission discussed what more can be done to get the word out so that more people complete the surveys.

4.2 Summer Convention Discussion

Mr. Christiansen discussed the timing of the "away" convention. He noted it might make sense to move the "away" convention to the fall and then change Fall Forum to a local summer event. It would be less expensive to hold an away event in the fall versus the summer. Ms. Tangaro said it allows us to have the away event while being fiscally responsible. Mr. Christiansen wants to appoint a committee to start evaluating for 2025.

4.3 Other Items

Mr. Morris made a motion that the Bar send flowers to Judge Jenkins memorial. Mr. Christiansen seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 10:45 am.

Consent Agenda.

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the September 22, 2023 Commission Meeting;