

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Friday, April 19, 2024

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

Ex-Officio Members: Nate Alder, Dean Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Lauren Shurman, Ezzy Khaosanga, and Katie Woods.

Not in Attendance: Ex-Officio members Anaya Gayle, Ashley Biehl, Katie Lawyer, Tony Graf, Margaret Plane, and Dean David Moore.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Schade, Finance Director Nathan Severin, IT Director David Clark, Christine Hashimoto, David Duncan, and Stephen Kelson.

1. President's Welcome and Reports

1.1 Spring Convention Report

Mr. Christiansen provided a report on the Spring Convention. He noted the convention was sold out and thanked Cara Tangaro for planning a great program including a great keynote speaker who spoke about the California Innocence Project.

1.2 Report on Western States Bar Conference

Mr. Christiansen discussed the Western States Bar Conference, which he attended with Ms. Tangaro, Ms. Cardova, and Ms. Wright. Mr. Christiansen noted the value of the conference in terms of exchanging ideas with other bars and keeping up with trends and issues in the region. Mr. Christiansen highlighted what he learned other bars are doing including Supreme oral argument in high schools, AI committees, and legal services provided by community workers.

1.3 Admissions Ceremony

Mr. Christiansen reminded the Commission that the Admissions Ceremony is May 20 at the Salt Palace.

1.4 Annual Meeting on July 12, 2024

The Annual Meeting will be held July 12, 2024 at the Law and Justice Center.

1.5 Report of Chief Disciplinary Counsel Search

Ms. Wright reported that the interviews are scheduled for the end of April.

1.6 Report on Admissions Statistics

Ms. Wright reported on the high number of UBE score transfers that are likely linked to Utah's newly lower cut score. Ms. Wright also reported that 364 examinees are registered

to take the July 2024 bar exam. In recent years, the number of July examinees has been in the 200-250 range.

1.7 Looking Ahead

1.7.1 Commission Retreat: The Commission Retreat will be August 23, 2024 at the Snowpine Lodge.

2. Action Items

2.1 Approve 2024-2025 Budget

Mr. Severin and Mr. Hoffman presented the 2024-2025 budget. Once approved, the budget will be submitted to the Court for final approval.

After a discussion of the Bar's financial position, investments, sandbox expenses, and budget highlights, Tyler Young made a motion to approve the budget. Cara Tangaro seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Commission had a brief discussion regarding the status of the State audit of the Bar.

2.2 Approve free legal research provider

David Duncan and Christine Hashimoto of the Innovation in Law Committee presented on Decisis, a new tool for free legal research offered to bar licensees. The Bar currently contracts with Fastcase to provide free legal research to licensees. The Fastcase contract is up for renewal and Decisis has a new product for Bars to offer their licensees.

After the presentation and a demonstration of the product, Ms. Hashimoto reported the Innovation Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Commission switch to Decisis.

John Rees made a motion to approve a switch Decisis as the Bar's legal research benefit. Mark Morris seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

2.3 Approve Violence Against the Legal Profession Survey

Mr. Kelson presented on the Violence Against the Legal Profession Survey. Mr. Kelson conducted a survey on violence against the legal profession in 2006 and would like to conduct a follow-up survey in 2026 on the 20th anniversary of the first.

The Commission discussed violence against lawyers and judges and the importance of addressing the issue. The Commission discussed how the survey data would be used noting the data is not useful if it cannot be used to address the violence.

Mr. Kelson reported the data can be used to develop policies and practices to advise lawyers and law firms how to keep themselves safe. Mr. Christiansen asked Mr. Kelson about doing CLE presentation with the data and recommendations. Mr. Kelson said he would conduct CLEs and write another Bar Journal article. Mr. Kelson also noted the survey would be sent through Bar survey technology so the data would belong to the Bar.

Cara Tangaro made a motion to approve conducting survey on violence in Utah's legal community. Tyler Young seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Information Items

3.1 Litigation Section

Mr. Christiansen discussed the Litigation Sections recent issues regarding the Moab event, which is no longer affiliated with the Bar or the Section. The section has been in discussions concerning what role the Section should have in an event that is now being offered by a private, 501(c)(3). The Section voted to sponsor in the amount of \$2500. The Commission discussed its role in helping Sections deal with difficult discussions and disagreements within sections. It appears the Section has resolved the issue, but the Commission noted they have authority over section activities.

Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 11:03 am.

Consent Agenda.

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the March 14, 2024 Commission Meeting.