

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023

In Attendance: President Erik Christiansen, and Commissioners J. Brett Chambers, Matt Hansen, Greg Hoole, Mark Morris, Shawn Newell, and John Rees.

Ex-Officio Members: Anaya Gayle, Tony Graf, Dean Elizabeth Kronk-Warner, and Dean David Moore.

Not in Attendance: Commissioners Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, Kim Cordova, Traci Gunderson, Cara Tangaro, Tyler Young, Tom Bayles, and Rick Hoffman, and Ex-Officio members Ashley Beihl, Camila Moreno, Katie Lawyer, Kristin Woods, Lauren Shurman, Margaret Plane, and Nathan Adler.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Brooke Muir, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, Utah Court Representative Nick Stiles, Utah Legal Services Innovation Office Program Director Andrea Donahue.

1. President's Welcome and Reports

1.1 Introduction of New Bar Staff

Elizabeth Wright introduced the new bar staff to the commissions: Nathan Severin, director of finance, Andrea Donahue, director of the Office of Legal Services Innovation, Maribeth LeHoux, general counsel, and Brooke Muir, assistant executive director.

1.2 Jeannine Timothy Retirement

Ms. Wright acknowledged Jeannine Timothy for her 26 years of service to the Consumer Assistance Program.

1.3 Retreat

Mr. Christiansen reminded the Commission of the retreat September 22-23 and discussed the agenda and topics for the retreat.

1.4 Report on National Conference of Bar Presidents and ABA Annual Meeting

Mr. Christiansen reported from the NCBP and the trends discussed at the conference, particularly for younger lawyers, the role of AI in the profession, and mentorship within the bar. From the ABA meeting, Mr. Christiansen discussed the goals and focus of the new ABA president, as well as the growth of affinity bars. Ms. Wright discussed topics from the National Bar Executives meetings.

1.5 ABA House of Delegates' Meeting

This agenda item was skipped.

2. Information Items

2.1 Bar Building Improvement Updates

Ms. Wright provided an update on the improvements at the Utah Law & Justice Center, including updates to the bathrooms and replacing the skylight.

2.2 Admissions Updates: Emily Lee

Ms. Lee provided an update on the July bar exam, including test accommodations. She discussed the process of grading and put out a call for graders. The admissions ceremony in October will be at the Salt Palace at noon on October 27, 2023. She discussed the NCBE's new NextGen bar exam, which will be available in 2026, as well as the proposal for alternative paths to licensure. The Commission discussed the changes to the exam, including the new cut score.

2.3 War Stories Videos: Bruce Baird

Mr. Baird discussed his project of recording local attorney's stories, and the concept of conducting similar interviews and recordings with additional attorneys. He suggested a working group to come up with a plan/budget to make more videos and which could be run as CLEs. Mr. Christiansen suggested Mr. Baird put together a proposal, including any funding requests.

3. Action Items

3.1 Appoint Commission Ex-officio Members: Erik Christiansen

Mr. Christiansen discussed the ex-officio member appointments.

Mr. Morris moved to recommend the proposal and Mr. Hoole seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Appoint Committee Chairs: Erik Christiansen

Mr. Christiansen discussed the appointment of committee chairs.

Mr. Hansen moved to recommend the proposal and Mr. Chambers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 Appoint Commission Liaisons: Erik Christiansen

Mr. Christiansen discussed the commission liaisons for the committees.

Mr. Newell moved to recommend the proposal and Mr. Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.4 Reappoint Erik Christiansen as Bar ABA Delegate

Mr. Christiansen discussed the Bar ABA delegate role, and recused himself for debate and voting.

Mr. Hansen moved to recommend the proposal and Mr. Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3.5 Purchase Table for Legal Aid Society Gala

The Commission discussed the upcoming Legal Aid Society Gala on September 8, 2023, and purchasing a table for \$1500.

Mr. Morris moved to recommend the proposal and Mr. Hoole seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

4.1 Utah Court's Common Thread Program: Jonathan Puente

Mr. Puente, from the Office of Fairness and Accountability in Utah Court, presented on Common Thread. Common Thread acts as a pipeline to help diversify the bench. This year, they are hosting a welcome event for law students on September 14th in Park City. The program is chaired by Judge Gibson.

5. Executive Session

The Commission held an executive session.

6. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 11:40 am.

7. Consent Agenda.

The Commission noted that the following items would be voted on via email:

- Approve 2022-2023 committee charges
- Approve bar 401(k) trustee changes
- Approve minutes of June 9, 2023 commission meeting
- Approve fund for client protection report and recommendations