

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, March 14, 2024

In Attendance: President Erik Christiansen, President-elect Cara Tangaro, and Commissioners Tom Bayles, Kim Cordova, Greg Hoole, Matt Hansen, Mark Morris, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, and Tyler Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Nate Alder, Ashley Biehl, Tony Graf, Katie Lawyer, Margaret Plane, Katie Woods

Not in Attendance: Commissioners J. Brett Chambers, Shawn Newell, and Rick Hoffman. Ex-Officio members Anaya Gayle, Dean Elizabeth Warner, Dean David Moore, and Ezzy Khaosanga.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, Utah State Bar IT Director David Clark, State Court Administrator Ron Gordon.

1. President's Welcome and Reports

1.1 Review Spring Convention Schedule

Ms. Tangaro went over the conference agenda, including the opening reception tonight. And Justice for All silent auction begins during the reception as well. She discussed the keynote speaker, Justin Brooks, who is presenting tomorrow morning. YLD President Ashley Biehl spoke about the YLD events at the Convention, which include a CLE tomorrow morning and a social event tomorrow at Big Shots (6-9 pm).

1.2 New Commissioners and President-Elect

Mr. Christiansen discussed the commission elections. All of the elections are uncontested, including Ms. Cordova running as President-Elect. There is an additional opening for commissioner due to Traci Gunderson resignation. Mr. Christiansen noted that there will be a retention election for Ms. Cordova, pursuant to the rule. The Commission swearing in on July 12th at the Bar.

1.3 Report on Legislative Session

Mr. Christiansen talked about the 2024 legislative session. He stated that the GRC did a great job reviewing a large amount of legislation and that over 500 bills were passed this legislative session. The Bar opposed two bills – one involving judicial selection by litigating parties and the other made changes to the composition of CCJJ. The Commission discussed future lobbying endeavors and how they can get involved sooner in the legislative process. Ms. Cordova stated that the Commission needs to be more involved throughout the year and maintain good relationships with legislators. She suggested creating a subcommittee to be more involved throughout the year. Ms. Woods talked about her experience working with the legislature last year on the changes made to the judicial nominating committee. She suggested the Commission should also focus on non-lawyers to whom they can provide education about legal and judicial matters. She

stated the Commission so do more communicating with the public through the news/media.

1.4 Report on License Fee Meeting with the Court

Mr. Christiansen discussed the meeting with the Supreme Court regarding licensing fees for the upcoming renewal period. The Bar had all the costs from every program to present to the Court. Mr. Christiansen said that they told the Court the Bar was not going to raise fees, even though the current fees do not cover all the Bar's costs. Ms. Tangaro talked about how much work Nathan, Finance Director at the Bar, had done for the meeting and the audit.

1.5 Report of Chief Disciplinary Counsel Search

Ms. Wright provided an update, stating that the hiring committee will meet next week. The position had 28 applicants and there is a good committee for reviews and interviews. Sharadee Fleming is acting interim chief.

1.6 Looking Ahead

1.6.1 Admissions ceremony: The Ceremony will be May 20, 2024 at the Salt Palace.

1.6.2 June 21, 2024: Will be the Past President and 50-year pin lunch, which will be held at the Bar.

1.6.3 July 12: Will be the annual meeting and swearing in of new commissioners.

2. Action Items

2.1 Table for 10 at Law Day Luncheon

Mr. Christiansen discussed the Commission purchasing a table for 10 for \$500 for the Law Day Lunch on May 3, 2024.

Ms. Tangaro made a motion to buy a table for \$500 for the Law Day Lunch. Ms. Cardova seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Information Items

3.1 Judicial Council Report

Mr. Ron Gordon, the state court administrator, presented. He discussed the new judges that have been added, including home court pilot program for homeless and the Fourth district juvenile court judge in American Fork. In October 2024 the Business and Chancery court, which is a new court level, will begin operating.

He discussed the proposed rules on Manner of Appearance, which allow both remote and in-person appearance. The Supreme Court is currently working on rules which will be finalized in the next 2-3 months. Judges will get to decide how people need to appear, and people can challenge. Judges will grant the party's challenge unless there's a reason not to.

He also discussed the impact of HJR 8, which changes the rules of procedure and allows parties to strike judges in civil matters. The legislation says "sides," not parties, so presumably each case could only have two strikes. Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah Counties have enough judges where it will apply. It will be public which party filed the

request.

Mr. Gordon also discussed changes to courthouses, including building a new courthouse in Manti which will be completed in early 2025. The courts are also asking for a new courthouse in Davis County to consolidate all the courthouses into one. The funding request was \$139 million. The project did not receive the funding this year, but the courts know it may take several years to secure the funding.

3.2 Decisis Free Legal Research – David Clark, USB

Mr. Clark presented on Decisis, a potential new tool for case law research for Bar licensees. The Innovation in Law Committee is reviewing the tool and will be meeting with both Decisis and Fast Case to help evaluate. Decisis allows users to have access to all cases within Lexis Nexis. Fast Case utilization is 13% of bar membership, but could jump with Decisis.

Several Commissioners were interested in demo-ing Decisis, and asked Mr. Clark for login information so they could try the tool.

Other Items

The Commission noted the need to put together a committee for Summer Convention, including planning for an in-person Convention in 2025.

Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 11:35 am.

Consent Agenda.

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the February 9, 2024 Commission Meeting.
- Approve changes to Paralegal Division Bylaws