

# UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

## MINUTES

Friday, November 8, 2024

**In Attendance:** President Cara Tangaro, Kim Cordova, Miriam Alred, Tom Bayles, Brett Chambers, Mark Morris, Christian Clinger, Matt Hansen, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, Shawn Newell, John Rees, Olivia Shaughnessy.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Ezzy Khaosanga, Nick Stiles, Brit Berrill (remote), Jennifer Carver (remote).

**Not in Attendance:** Rick Hoffman and Tyler Young. Ex-Officio members Jennifer Carver, Dean Kronk Warner, Dean Moore, Eli McCann, Andy Gonzalez.

**Also in Attendance:** Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Schade, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, and Finance Director Nathan Severin.

### 1. President's Welcome and Retreat Schedule

#### 1.1 Lawyer-Legislative Breakfast

The breakfast with lawyer-legislators, as well as members of judiciary committees, is scheduled for Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am at the Capitol.

#### 1.2 Fall Forum

Ms. Tangaro told the Commission that the Fall Forum will be November 14-15 at the Little America. This is the first year the Bar is trying a two-day event. There will be two legislative panels, including someone from the Governor's office.

#### 1.3 Commission Election Reminder

Ms. Tangaro discussed that applications will be due by January 2 for president elect position and encouraged Commissioners to apply.

#### 1.4 Report on Northwest Bar Conference

Ms. Tangaro provided a recap on the Northwest Bar Conference last month. The group discussed issues facing other bars, including *Keller* legislation.

#### 1.5 Judicial Council Report

Ms. Woods has attended one Judicial Council meeting so far. She knows several of the judges and is looking forward to getting to know the others. She's also on the budget committee for the Council and will be able to report back on that once they've had a meeting.

### 2. Action Items

#### 2.1 Approve Financial Audit

Mr. Severin explained that the audit was a clean opinion, as it was last year. Nothing has changed since the previous version that was provided in August.

Mr. Severin discussed how costs generally are going up (health care, insurance, inflation

generally) as well as areas where we're spending less money, including the UnMind agreement ending in early 2025.

Mr. Clinger made a motion to approve financial audit. Ms. Mancuso-Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **2.2 Approve 2025-2026 License Fee**

Mr. Severin presented the proposed licensing fee for 2024-2025. Ms. Wright discussed how we hope to go to the Court in January so we can program it for next licensing session. The Bar intends on keeping fees the same for the next fiscal year, which will be recommended to the Court.

Mr. Hansen asked about doing small adjustments over time rather than waiting and doing a large increase less frequently and the Commission discussed.

Ms. Tangaro made a motion to approve the license fee. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **3. Reports**

### **3.1 Report on Legislative Audit**

Ms. Wright reported that we had received a draft of the legislative audit. The draft was being reviewed internally and the Bar would send comments and corrections as appropriate.

### **3.2 Report on Justice Court Report**

Mr. Eric Bunderson is the representative for Justice Court Reform Task Force and last reported to the Commission in May. The group had another meeting in August. The fiscal note for the project was \$45m ongoing, \$20m of which would need to be filled by the legislature each year. The League of Cities and Towns did surveys and found people were against justice court reform. In October, Cullimore emailed and said the Task Force was dissolved and there would be no attempts at this time for justice court reform.

### **3.3 Report on Bar Leadership Academy**

Mr. Lance Deanz, a board member for the Leadership Academy and a participant in 2019, presented on the benefits of the Academy and his personal experience from participating. He said that it provided great networking, and that he has set up a large CLE in Vernal. The retreat this year will be in San Francisco, CA on February 27-March 1. Applications for the next cohort are due next month. There is also a requirement that people in Leadership Academy be on a Bar Committee. Mr. Deanz asked the Commissioners to reach out to people in their divisions to apply for Leadership Academy.

### **3.4 Access to Justice Office Updates**

Ms. Megan Connelly, Access to Justice Coordinator, presented on 2024 highlights from the ATJ office. She discussed legal deserts throughout the state. The focus in 2024 was on CLE and getting non-trial lawyers to help with cases. Next year, the office is going to do monthly CLE's in specific practice areas to help get more new people involved. She also discussed October's Access to Justice Summit, as well as statewide and national partnerships and the 101 Trainings for the Signature Programs. For 2025, the ATJ office

will have a focus on the needs in rural areas.

### **Executive Session**

### **Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned at 11:45 am.

### **Consent Agenda.**

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the September 27, 2024 Commission Meeting