

# UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

## MINUTES

**Friday, September 27, 2024**

**In Attendance:** President Cara Tangaro, President-elect Kim Cordova, Miriam Alred, Tom Bayles, Christian Clinger, Matt Hansen, Rick Hoffman, Shawn Newell, John Rees, Olivia Shaughnessy, Tyler Young.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Jennifer Carver Christiansen, Ezzy Khaosanga, Britt Merrill, Margaret Plane, and Nick Stiles.

**Not in Attendance:** Brett Chambers, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, and Mark Morris, . Ex-Officio members Andy Gonzalez, Dean Kronk Warner, Eli McAnn and Dean Moore.

**Also in Attendance:** Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Schade, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, and Admissions Director Emily Lee.

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

#### **1.1 Admissions Ceremony**

Ms. Tangaro reminded the Commission that the Admissions Ceremony next week at the Salt Palace.

#### **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 UMBA Banquet**

The UMBA Banquet is the evening of November 14 (after the first day of the Fall Forum). It will also be at the Little America

#### **1.4 Lawyer-Legislator 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.

#### **1.5 Bar Updates**

Ms. Wright provided an update from the July 2024 bar exam. The Bar tested a record number of applicants – 336. The pass rate was 88%. 36 people scored between 260-269 and would not have passed under previous score cut off.

She also discussed the Access to Justice Summit, which is scheduled for Friday next week. The event brings all the legal service providers together under one roof.

#### **1.6 Recognition of Margaret Plane**

Ms. Wright recognized Margaret Plane for her 16 years on the Commission and her valuable contributions.

## **2. Action Items**

### **2.1 Approve Fall Forum Award Recipients**

Mentoring: Michael Bailey (James Lee), Adrienne Bell (Paul T. Moxley), and Patricia Christensen (Charlotte Miller)

Professionalism: Hon. Jeffrey Noland

Community Member: Kim Russo

Ms. Cordova made a motion to approve the mentoring awards as presented. Mr. Clinger seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Cordova made a motion to approve the professionalism award as presented. Ms. Tangaro seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Tangaro made a motion to approve the community member award as presented. Ms. Cordova seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **2.2 Appoint Bar Representative to the ABA House of Delegates**

Mr. Christiansen presented on the applicants for ABA House of Delegates. He stated that we had 5 strong candidates. The Commission discussed the applicants and the role.

Ms. Cordova made a motion to appoint Tiffany Shimada as Bar Representative to the ABA House of Delegates, Mr. Christiansen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **2.3 Approve \$2,000 Sponsorship for UCLI Pre-Law Symposium and Law Student Mentoring Program**

UCLI contributions already had been budgeted for the fiscal year. UCLI does a pre-law symposium for college students, as well as a mentoring program for law students. This sponsorship would be for those programs specifically.

Mr. Clinger made a motion to approve \$2000 sponsorship for UCLI. Ms. Tangaro seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **3. Information Items**

### **3.1 New Sandbox Guidelines**

Andrea Donahue presented on the Sandbox, which started in 2020 and the pilot program will run through 2027. The Court has recently issued some new guidance on the Sandbox. The Court has looked at the entities currently in the Sandbox and the data that has been collected so far. The biggest change is the modification to the innovation requirement by adding a Utah nexus. This change impacts entities in the Sandbox that only have an incidental impact on Utah residents.

### **3.2 Sun Valley 2026**

Michelle Oldroyd presented to the Commission on returning the Summer Convention to Sun Valley in 2026. The potential dates are in August (4-9), due to much lower room rates. 2026 will be the 95<sup>th</sup> year of the Bar. The event would include big, keynote speakers

as well as family events. The CLE department is hoping to provide a years' worth of CLE at the event. The registration price will be higher than the last time we had the event there, and they are projecting 300 attendees. There would be approximately \$250,000 worth of expenses. Registration would be \$650 and rooms would be \$355 (lowest) and \$385 (average). The Commission also discussed scholarships for government employees and YLD.

Ms. Tangaro move forward with signing a contract with Sun Valley for August 2026. Ms. Cordova seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **3.3 Judicial Council Report**

Margaret Plane gave a report from the Judicial Council. Ms. Plane is finishing up her 3-year term and discussed the important relationship between the courts and the Bar. The current priorities of the Council are: (1) core courthouse employee retention; (2) additional appellate court judge; (3) juvenile court officers; (4) IT essential software; (5) guardianship program.

### **Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned at 11:52 am.

### **Consent Agenda.**

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the August 23, 2024 Commission Meeting