

**UTAH JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
POLICY, PLANNING and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Webex video conferencing  
February 6, 2026 – 12 p.m.

**MEMBERS:**

**PRESENT**

**EXCUSED**

|                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Judge James Gardner,<br><i>Chair</i> | ✓ |   |
| Judge Jon Carpenter                  | ✓ |   |
| Judge Angela<br>Fonnesbeck           |   | ✓ |
| Judge Christine Johnson              | ✓ |   |

**GUESTS:**

Nick Stiles  
Keri Sargent

**STAFF:**

Keisa Williams  
Todd Eaton  
Cindy Schut

**(1) Welcome and approval of minutes:**

Judge Gardner welcomed the committee members to the Policy, Planning, and Technology Committee (PP&T). PP&T considered the minutes from the January 9, 2026 meeting. With no changes, Judge Gardner moved to approve the minutes as presented. Judge Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(2) Rule back from public comment:**

- **CJA 3-101. Judicial performance standards**

No public comments were received on 3-101. Nick Stiles provided a history of the rule amendments and noted that pending legislation (S.B. 233) might require additional amendments. The committee discussed an “on-ramp” period to avoid dual standards on existing cases. The committee added the following sentence to clarify for the appellate courts when the new standards take effect:

- On line 53 added: “The case under advisement performance standards for appellate courts in paragraphs (3)(A) and (3)(B) begin with cases submitted after May 1, 2026.”

***After further discussion, Judge Gardner moved to recommend to the Judicial Council that rule 3-101 as revised be approved as final subject to the Board of Appellate Court Judges’ approval with a May 1, 2026 effective date. Judge Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**(3) Rules back from public comment:**

- **CJA 3-111. Performance Evaluation of Court Commissioners**
- **CJA 4-410. Courthouse closure**

No public comments were received on 3-111. One comment was received on 4-410. The commentor suggested changing “must ensure” to “must make a reasonable effort” and defining “conspicuous

places” to include social media or the court’s webpage. After discussion, the committee added “as soon as reasonably possible” to line 36 but declined to add additional language regarding notice because in (7), the Court Communications Director is charged with informing the media and the public.

***With no further discussion, Judge Carpenter moved to recommend to the Judicial Council that rules 3-111 and 4-410 be approved as final with a May 1, 2026 effective date. Judge Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **(3) CJA 5-101. The Board of Appellate Court Judges:**

S.B. 134 passed and became effective on January 31, 2026. The bill increases the number of Supreme Court Justices to 7 and the number of Court of Appeals judges to 9. The proposed amendments increase the number of justices and judges necessary to constitute a quorum during the Board of Appellate Court Judges’ meetings. Nick Stiles requested to pull this item from the agenda to allow for further board discussion.

***Following discussion, PP&T took no action on CJA rule 5-101 at this time.***

### **Technology report/proposals:**

Todd Eaton provided an update on information technology initiatives. IT teams will be present at all upcoming spring conferences. The department is finalizing configurations and purchases to replace core servers for internal apps as they approach end-of-life in approximately two years. A Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting is being scheduled for February.

### **Old Business/New Business:**

Judge Gardner provided an update on CJA 4-102. Ms. Williams sent the overarching principles, along with proposed language for consideration to every district.

Judge Gardner noted language in HB 392 requiring the Judicial Council to pass a rule by March 7, 2026, establishing a process for the random selection of a three-judge panel. The bill suggests a list of qualified judges, comprising at least 50% of the district bench. If the legislation passes, it will be incumbent upon PP&T to quickly draft language for a rule.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the April PP&T meeting was to moved to April 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:** With no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 6, 2026, at noon via Webex video conferencing.