

**Utah Judicial Council's Standing Committee on
Resources for Self-Represented Parties Meeting Minutes**

Matheson Courthouse
Executive Dining Room
January 9, 2019
12 PM – 2 PM

Members	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Judge Suchada Bazzelle		X	
Lisa Collins		X	
Sue Crismon		X	
Monica Fjeldsted			X
Leslie Francis	X		
Carol Frank			X
Susan Griffith	X		
Carl Hernandez		X	
Judge Catherine Hoskins		X	
Jacob Kent		X	
Judge Barry Lawrence - Chair	X		
Christopher Martinez		X	
Shawn Newell	X		
Nathanael Player	X		
Judge Brook Sessions	X		
Peter Strand		X	
Charles Stormont	x		
Virginia Sudbury	X		
Judge Doug Thomas		X	
Jessica Van Buren	X		
Guests	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Amy Sorenson (ex officio)			X
Nick Stiles (ex officio)	X		
Amy Hernandez (ex officio)	X		
Kara Mann (ex officio)	X		
Judge Lawrence Winthrop			X
Theresa Barrett			X
Landon (Hinckley Intern)	X		
Staff	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Nancy Sylvester	X		

1. Welcome and approval of minutes.

Judge Lawrence welcomed the committee and guests and requested a motion on the minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Introduction of new members; farewell to departing members

Judge Lawrence noted that Nicole Gray has replaced Lisa Collins in the appellate clerk of court position. He also noted that Carol Frank's term had expired. She occupied the rural clerk of court position. That position will be filled by the next meeting.

3. Discussion with the Arizona Judicial Branch on its access to justice initiatives

Judge Lawrence welcomed Judge Winthrop from Arizona. Judge Winthrop was joined on the phone by Theresa Barrett and several other staff from her office. Judge Winthrop and Ms. Barrett discussed several initiatives the Arizona judicial branch has undertaken:

- Court navigator/Americorps program, which has helped thousands of patrons;
- Training librarians on pro se resources;
- Video webinars;
- Live chat feature on the court's website;
- Podcasts from Supreme Court justices;
- Online dispute resolution, which is based on Michigan's model (Michigan saw a ramp up of participation and collection of fees and fines after implementing ODR); and
- Domestic violence: support existing lay legal advocates and providing remote court access.

Ms. Barrett discussed their commission structure. The Arizona Access to Justice Commission is a standing committee of the Arizona Supreme Court that has partnerships with that State Bar. The commission is staffed by Supreme Court staff, who are also staff to other committees

Regarding the Americorps funding, Ms. Barrett said the governor's office has a significant role in directing where the grant funding is going to go. Judge Lawrence wondered if the same was true here in Utah. Americorps requires that the grantee have some skin in the game. Maricopa County was able to meet that requirement by putting in full-time equivalent employees. Could another university take this on? Americorps provides the students with a stipend. It's open to university and community college students. New York City has a very extensive navigator program but money comes from the city itself.

The Arizona Court's self-help website is found on AZCourtHelp.org and has a variety of interesting resources, including cartoons to help people navigate the system.

4. Subcommittee Updates – Committee Members

a. Education (outreach to law schools)

Judge Lawrence provided an update from the Education Subcommittee. The group is still looking at the ten days summons rule and how to improve notice to defendants of the self-help resources available. Nathanael Player is working on redrafting the summons. Judge Lawrence is also interested in exploring the Americorps/Court Navigator program when the new Access to Justice Director comes on at the U.

b. Outreach (community)

The Community Outreach Subcommittee reported on the brochure the subcommittee is preparing to distribute widely and Shawn Newell's efforts to reach a wider audience by speaking on radio shows, podcasts, and the news.

c. Rural Services (local/virtual clinics)

The Rural Services Subcommittee reported on the grant awarded to Timpanogos Legal Clinic to develop clinics in rural communities.

d. Self-Help Center / Non-lawyer Assistance / Court Updates / Subcommittee (SHC funding, etc.)

Nathanael Player reported on Harvard's Access to Justice Lab, which will be studying attendance at the debt collection calendar and whether different notice variables affect that. He also reported on forms that had been recently approved.

5. Discussion on self-represented litigants and dressing for court, childcare, and cell phone use

The Committee had a lively discussion with Amy Hernandez, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts, about access to justice issues that have been reported anecdotally. Those issues included patrons being turned away at the door for not dressing appropriately, bringing children to court because they do not have childcare, and being told to leave cell phones in the car or at home, even when those devices contain their court documents. The committee concluded that Judge Lawrence and Judge Sessions should present on these topics at the spring District and Justice Court Conferences, respectively.

6. Other Business

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 28.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.