

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

Via Webex
July 17, 2020
12:00 PM – 1 PM

Members	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Judge Suchada Bazzelle			X
Sue Crismon			X
Monica Fjeldsted			X
Leslie Francis			X
Nicole Gray			X
Susan Griffith			X
Carl Hernandez			X
Judge Catherine Hoskins			X
Jacob Kent			X
Judge Richard Mrazik - Chair			X
Shawn Newell			X
Judge Katherine Peters			
Nathanael Player			X
Charles Stormont			X
Peter Strand			X
Virginia Sudbury			X
Janet Thorpe			X
Jessica Van Buren			X
Guests	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Amy Hernandez (Domestic Violence Program Coordinator)			X
Kara Mann (Language Access Program Coordinator)			X
Justice Christine Durham (Access to Justice Commission)		X	
Rob Jepson (Access to Justice Commission)			X
Amy Sorenson (Access to Justice Commission)		X	
Lauren Skolnick			X
Staff	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Nancy Sylvester			X

(1) Welcome and approval of minutes

Judge Richard Mrazik welcomed the committee to the meeting.

The committee will approve the May 2020 minutes at the next meeting.

(2) Employment law discussion/wage theft claims (Tab 1)

- The committee discussed tackling employment law cases, particularly in light of COVID-19. The committee talked about what non-lawyers can do to help.
- There are not enough lawyers to take on employment law cases on the employee side.
- There may be only 10 lawyers who practice plaintiff side employment law in the state.
- Spanish speakers especially need someone to fill out their forms and go do the hearing for them.
- Lauren Scholnik teaches an employment law class at the U. Leslie Francis said she would be happy to help work on a program to get people plugged in easily. Create a network of people who can easily volunteer.
- Rob offered to do a brief advice clinic through PBI. Would just need a lead attorney. Sue mentioned this could be like a TLC structure where people are actually helping fill out forms.
- Lauren said after years of doing street law, she would push this group to think beyond form filling out to taking the person all the way through the process and close the deal. They are quick things. They can be closed in 6 weeks. Lauren said she has 22 students in her class this coming semester and said she is sure each of them would be happy to do a wage claim as part of their grade.
- Rob said this is one of the biggest demands in case types right now and he could pass along referrals to Lauren's class.
- Leslie said she would like to get trained and help out because she can connect med law students.
- Judge Mrazik said he has consistent concerns about trying to tackle this with free labor. We need to make sure someone is hired to address this permanently, ie a director at the U.
- Lauren said there is a \$150K price tag on this. With the BLM movement, there may be law students coming up who are interested in jumping into complicated employment discrimination cases.
- You have to file discrimination claims with the EEOC and the Labor Commission, but things never get resolved at that level.
- Carl Hernandez said he thinks he can work with the 3 clinics at BYU on adding this, particularly since they have a strong connection with the spanish-speaking community on immigration issues.
- Rob Jepsen talked about hiring a lead attorney for each area of the recent report and that person could lead the effort, take a case load, supervise the volunteers, and look at solutions. This person could be in his office or some other entity.
- Jeff Daybell mentioned that he gets pushback from plaintiff lawyers about bar dues being used to defend the cases he's involved in. Jeff said he just got 501c3 status yesterday for his new non-profit, People's Legal Aid.
- (TLC: TLC isn't in the position right now to take this on. They are running at capacity with the types of cases they are handling. They can look at adding funding to do this in the future.)

(3) Eviction-Jeff Daybell

- Jeff manages the 3rd District pro se calendars on eviction and debt collection. He said it's great that courts have grasped onto Webex to allow attorneys to appear who can help.
- Some districts don't have any options for volunteer attorneys.
- Proposal to establish calendars across the state that he can be connected on. He needs to receive notice of evictions in the more rural districts so that he can connect volunteer attorneys with them.
- Connect with 2nd and 4th districts. Judge Hoskins offered to talk with Judge Connors. Judge Mrazik and Nancy will talk with Judge Brown in 4th District. Judge Mrazik will send an email out to all district judges. Jeff will send a 2-3 sentence description of the grant PLA got

(4) Outreach (Tab 2)

- Judge Mrazik: We've asked for an outreach coordinator and almost got one with one-time funding, but that priority yielded to the creation of the larger Office on Fairness and Accountability, which will eventually hire the outreach coordinator.
- Shawn Newell: think about outreach in a different way. Pull in people from those communities who can communicate safety factors. Make efforts visible to these communities. Need to employ someone who can go out into these communities. There are so many that just don't know how to access these services.
- Sue has lists of older outreach plans. Educate people like barbers and leaders in the communities.
- Amy has a tribal outreach specialist on her grant. She is doing COVID relief efforts with the Navajo nation, etc. Judge Mrazik will talk with Amy about this.
- Shawn: trust is a huge aspect of outreach and connecting with resources.
- Leslie: another place to reach out to is medical clinics, i.e. new South Main Clinic.
- Judge Mrazik will follow up with Shawn on Monday about a list of leaders in the communities that need to be reached. Shawn said pastors are another great resource. Latter-day Saint communities also need to be reached. We'll start with Shawn's list.

(5) Salt Lake County Grants related to COVID (Tab 3)

- These all have an access to justice aspect of them.
- We got word that the courts been invited to fully apply for grant funding (meaning SL County likes the proposals so far).

(6) Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2020.