

Agenda

Utah Judicial Council's Standing Committee on Resources for Self-represented Parties

January 8, 2021
12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Via Webex

Welcome and approval of November minutes (Tab 1)	Judge Richard Mrazik
Roundtable check-in on emerging issues related to COVID-19	All
Follow up on prior discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment law (law schools, clinics, etc.) • Community outreach (efforts being taken now, etc.) • Technology (remote hearing access) • Evictions (CDC moratorium, Mycase, Community Bail Fund) • Debt collection • CLE credit for pro bono work • Improving navigation for self-help webpages • Updates to Rules of Civil Procedure (more notice of rights and responsibilities) • 2020 What's Working Memorandum 	All
New discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courthouse phone trees and best practices • Bringing uniformity to criteria for waiving filing fees 	Nathanael Player
Other business	Judge Richard Mrazik

Next meeting: March 12, 2021

Meeting schedule: 2nd Friday at noon

2020 Meeting Schedule: Every other month on the second Friday at noon.

Tab 1

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

Via Webex
November 13, 2020
12:00 PM – 1:30 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		X	
Nathanael Player	X		
Charles Stormont	X		
Peter Strand	X		
Virginia Sudbury	X		
Janet Thorpe	X		
Law Librarian (vacant)		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	
Staff	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Nancy Sylvester	X		

(1) Welcome and approval of minutes

Judge Mrazik welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Mr. Stormont moved to approved the minutes and Ms. Sudbury seconded. The motion carried.

(2) MyCase:

The committee, with Nathanael Player leading the discussion, discussed MyCase as follows:

MyCase allows litigants to view online case information. Case dockets are considered public. The software is ready to roll out but there has been no one to take the initiative. Judge Catherine Hoskins moved to support efforts to move MyCase forward. Mr. Stormont seconded. The motion carried. Could IT demonstrate the software for this committee in January with Kim Zimmerman's help?

(3) Evictions:

The committee, with input from multiple committee members, discussed evictions as follows:

The CDC evictions moratorium will end on December 31, 2020. Mr. Strand observed that the Litigation Section has been helping at the evictions calendars and asked whether that help should be ramped up. Mr. Player and Mr. Strand will talk offline to ensure solid coordination. Mr. Stormont said he would be willing to independently work on a "How to negotiate your way out of treble damages" guide that could be made available to housing advocates. Charles will talk with Senator Cullimore about what their clients are doing to keep people in their homes. He observed that there are not a lot of negotiations going on once a landlord is entitled to an order of restitution. Professor Francis asked whether pro bono counsel can be used. Committee members responded that there is not enough time within a 3-day time frame to get pro bono counsel involved. People's Legal Aid is calling litigants who have filed an answer and offering to represent them to help mitigate damages. Perhaps a Tuesday night bar special eviction program could be a possible solution?

Further discussion:

- Look at eviction diversion programs in other states.
- Can committee members see plaintiff attorneys' CDC eviction lists and connect the tenants with resources before the occupancy hearing?
- Legislation: Senators Kitchen, Harper worked together on affordable housing reforms last year. Harper works for Taylorsville City. Non-court committee members may reach out to them in their individual capacities to see if they are going to do anything on this topic in the upcoming session.
- Judge Mrazik said he would call Judge Parker and Jeff Daybell to get a feel for what they are seeing and what they expect to see.
- A sub-group needs to be formed to help organize some help. The Utah Housing Coalition does active lobbying on the hill. Nathanael will connect with them for information-gathering purposes to find out what they are planning. Sub-group: Leslie Francis, Sue Crismon, and Charles Stormont. Will meet next week. Rob Jepson said he would lend his new A2J attorney to help organize efforts. Nathanael Player, Judge Mrazik, and Nancy Sylvester will also join if they are able.

(4) Roundtable check-in on emerging issues related to COVID-19

Ms. Sudbury:

- Is connecting with clients more due to technology. She is also seeing an increase in client contact as a PGAL.
- She finds herself being more efficient. If a hearing takes 15 minutes, that's all she charges (no parking, commuting).

Shawn Newell:

- Would like to start some activities on outreach. Get feelers out with key community leaders to expand offerings of services. Beta test of reaching out to communities.
- He said he can lead out but needs content. Judge Mrazik supported the efforts and noted that we are still 1 year out on hiring an outreach coordinator.

Judge Hoskins:

- Access to justice is so much better with the tech roll out. Has made rural judges more accessible.

Sue Crismon:

- We need to compile a memorandum from this committee about what's working in 2020.
- Judge Hoskins will start working on the memo and getting feedback from justice court judges.
- Sue and Shawn will work on putting together an online outreach meeting every other month in 2021. Start in December with eviction information distribution. Shawn will pull this together. Judge Mrazik offered to be the face of this.
- CLE credit for pro bono work. Has things already in progress--voted on years ago by this committee. Board of District Court Judges will take this up 11/20.

No further reports.

(5) Post-meeting follow up:

- MyCase memo/resolution
- Evictions subgroup meeting 11/20/20
- Plaintiff attorneys' evictions list to connect with resources
- Affordable housing legislation this year?
- December online outreach meeting (eviction info & resources)
- CLE credit for pro bono work
- 2020 What's Working Memorandum

(6) Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.

(7) Next meeting:

January 8, 2021 at noon via Webex.