

# Agenda

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

January 7, 2022  
12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Via Webex

Noon	Welcome and introduction for new members (approval pending)	Judge Rich Mrazik
12:30 p.m.	Approval of minutes (Tab 1)	All
12:35 p.m.	Discussion of committee priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CJA 3-115 and our mandate (Tab 2)</li><li>• Prior accomplishments</li><li>• What we have been working on</li><li>• What we should focus on next</li></ul>	Judge Rich Mrazik
1:35 p.m.	Update on rule to provide CLE credit for pro bono work	Nancy Sylvester
1:50 p.m.	Confirming date and time of our next meeting	Nathanael Player

**Next meeting: February 11, 2022**

**Meeting schedule: Every other month on the second Friday at 12:00 p.m.**

Tab 1

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

*Via Webex*  
October 15, 2021  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

In attendance:

Janet Thorpe

Judge Mrazik

Kaden Taylor

Nicole Gray

Leslie Francis

Judge Peters

Nathanael Player

Marcus Degen

Pamela Beatse

Kim Paulding

No objection to approve minutes from June and August. Minutes were approved – Nathanael Player moved and Leslie Francis seconded the motion.

Judge Mrazik thanked Sue Crismon for her 7 years of service on the committee, Susan Griffith for her 6 years of service, Virginia Sudbury for her 9 years of service, and Carl Hernandez for his 7 years of service.

Roundtable discussion

Kaden – the library is open and foot traffic is picking up. They are working to get interns to help people prepare their paperwork

Kim Paulding – the Utah Bar Foundation is working to develop data-based recommendations on the debt collection and eviction process. They hope to make recommendations on forms, procedures, substantive processes and other possible changes. Kim has heard that IT will make Webex breakout

rooms (including for participants who join by phone) and remote interpretation services available. Breakout rooms might help courts run their calendars more efficiently.

Leslie Francis noted that phone calls might be faster and easier than phone calls.

Janet Thorpe – doubts that the court will move away from Webex. They have staff who usher people to different rooms to avoid congestion. Video appearances are working very well. Her sense is that video appearances have increased court participation – she sees fewer warrants issued and has seen 100% participation on some calendars.

Leslie Francis – the law school recently appointed a new pro bono director. She won't be on site for 3 weeks. She is interested in moving beyond just a brief advice model. It will take some time before they have a sense for where the program will be going.

Judge Peters – in her court she has not heard complaints about the ratio of in-person versus remote participation. Her sense is that they have been able to reach people more efficiently. People call in during their lunch break, which has given people better access and added efficiency.

Nicole Gray – Sue Crismon has taken the executive director position to run the Office of Legal Services Innovation.

Pamela Beatse – the Access to Justice Commission wanted to ask the court to have an open house to invite community members to come to the court and ask questions.

Judge Mrazik pointed out that outreach probably needs to occur across the state.

Marcus Degen – PLA is doing less debt defense and is still not taking new cases outside of the eviction calendars before Judges Parker, Cornish, and Gibson. PLA is hiring a new attorney who will start in a few weeks. Also, PLA is going to conduct a CLE to encourage volunteers to participate in the eviction calendars.

Virginia Sudbury – has appreciated her time on the committee.

Nathanael Player

Division Court – there is an opportunity rethink the role of courts under this new model

How to help serve on committees – Judge Farr is heading the working group

### Childcare

Nathanael Player is researching ways to make childcare accessible for court patrons in Matheson.

### Studies

Nathanael Player updated the committee on the status of the in-person versus remote randomized control study being planned in partnership with Harvard's A2J Lab. The study is on hold until permission is given to have in-person hearings again.

Judge Mrazik gave an update on the survey project in district court – the Access to Justice Commission has asked to be on the Judicial Council's agenda to ask permission to give district court judges the option to participate in a survey.

#### Other

Judge Baxter is retiring. Please encourage qualified applicants to apply.

Tab 2

**Rule 3-115. Committee on resources for self-represented parties.**

Intent: To establish a committee to study and make policy recommendations to the Judicial Council concerning the needs of self-represented parties.

Applicability: This rule shall apply to the judiciary.

Statement of the Rule:

(1) The committee shall study the needs of self-represented parties within the Utah State Courts, and propose policy recommendations concerning those needs to the Judicial Council.

(2) Duties of the committee. The committee shall:

(2)(A) provide leadership to identify the needs of self-represented parties and to secure and coordinate resources to meet those needs;

(2)(B) assess available services and forms for self-represented parties and gaps in those services and forms;

(2)(C) ensure that court programs for self-represented litigants are integrated into statewide and community planning for legal services to low-income and middle-income individuals;

(2)(D) recommend measures to the Judicial Council, the State Bar and other appropriate institutions for improving how the legal system serves self-represented parties; and

(2)(E) develop an action plan for the management of cases involving self-represented parties.