

Agenda

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

June 13, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Via Webex: <https://utcourts.webex.com/meet/nathanaelp>

Welcome and review of agenda	Judge Rich Mrazik
Approval of February and May meeting minutes	Judge Rich Mrazik
Roundtable updates	All
Update from Legal Deserts Conference	Nathanael Player and Megan Connelly
Update re: SRLN Conference 9/19 to 9/20	Nathanael Player
Discussion of what kinds of voices we would like to hear from as a committee	Judge Rich Mrazik
Thinking about scheduling another big session around a new primary focus for the committee	Discussion: All

The Self-Rep Committee meets at noon (via Webex) on the first Thursday of every other month (we rescheduled the April meeting due to scheduling conflicts). Meetings are scheduled for:

August 2, 2024 October 3, 2024 December 5, 2024

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

Via Webex
February 1, 2024
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Name	Position	Attended	Excused
Honorable Rich Mrazik	District court judge and chair	X	
Honorable Ann Marie Mciff Allen	District court judge	X	
Honorable Annette Jan	Juvenile court judge	X	
Honorable Danalee Welch-O’Donnal	Justice court judge		X
Honorable Jeri Allphin	Justice court judge	X	
Nicole Gray	Appellate clerk of court	X	
Shannon Treseder	Urban clerk of court		X
Dawn Hautamaki	Rural Clerk of Court	X	
Nathanael Player	Self-Help Center representative	X	
Charles Stormont	Utah State Bar		X
Peter Strand	Legal services organization that serves low-income clients		X
Alison Satterlee	Private attorney	X	
Professor Leslie Francis	Law school representative	X	
Professor Beth Jennings	Law school representative	X	
Kaden Taylor	State law librarian	X	
Shawn Newell	Community representative		X
Brooke Robinson	Community representative	X	

Guests:

Megan Connelly

Katsí Peña

Sandra Carpaio

Approval of December meeting minutes

Brookee Robinson moved to approve the minutes and Alison Satterlee seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Roundtable updates

- TLC is hiring
- Need for more resources in family law – there were a lot of domestic violence cases at the start of the year
- We are feeling a lack of resources in rural areas – especially pro/low bono resources
 - It would be nice if people could understand how impactful having counsel can be in a legal case
- The Utah State Law Library is exploring what other resources they could bring into their space at the Matheson courthouse
- Utah 2-1-1 is shifting from providing referrals to resource navigation
- We are feeling the loss of People’s Legal Aid
- Service via US mail and email often fails – other methods, such as text messaging, might make more sense
 - → we should revisit this question of notice being a problem
 - At case initiation
 - After case initiation
 - → it is probably connected to a lack of understanding
 - Could the court proactively send information?
- Pro se calendars are busy
- Pro bono recruitment is underway
- The court is restarting its virtual hearing workgroup
- There appears to be a gap in resources for people who have a Jail Release Agreement – there are not forms available to ask for this to be dismissed and it is not clear how an alleged victim could seek dismissal
- Making more information available in audio/video formats could be helpful to reach different kinds of learners
- There has been a drop in volunteerism on the family law pro se calendar
 - The scale of the problem for the litigant is significant, but manageable in terms of resource allocation
- There is a pilot appellate pro bono program running for a year
- Thee sandbox is planning to start accepting applications soon

Inviting non-lawyer community members to speak to the committee about legal issues they see upstream

- Should we invite social workers and other social service providers who see issues come talk to us in both criminal and civil contexts?

Generally, the group expressed enthusiasm for this endeavor.

A FAQ for social service providers could be worthwhile

Update re: community voice in the courts

The Council was supportive of this plan and we propose to add 2 seats on most Council committees. Plan is to start with enthusiastic committees and then move from there. There are several seats to fill and this will take some time.

Considering reforms to debt collection cases

Feedback on presentation

- Concerns might not be valid in SLC versus other locations

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

Via Webex
May 9, 2024
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Name	Position	Attended	Excused
Honorable Rich Mrazik	District court judge and chair	X	
Honorable Ann Marie Mciff Allen	District court judge		X
Honorable Annette Jan	Juvenile court judge	X	
Honorable Danalee Welch-O’Donnal	Justice court judge		X
Honorable Jeri Allphin	Justice court judge	X	
Nicole Gray	Appellate clerk of court	X	
Shannon Treseder	Urban clerk of court	X	
Dawn Hautamaki	Rural Clerk of Court	X	
Nathanael Player	Self-Help Center representative	X	
Charles Stormont	Utah State Bar		X
Peter Strand	Legal services organization that serves low-income clients		X
Alison Satterlee	Private attorney	X	
Professor Leslie Francis	Law school representative		X
Professor Beth Jennings	Law school representative		X
Kaden Taylor	State law librarian	X	
Shawn Newell	Community representative		X
Brooke Robinson	Community representative	X	
Sandra Carpaio	Social Services Org	X	

Guests:

Kimberely Farnsworth

Katsi Peña

Approval of February meeting minutes

We did not have a quorum and did not approve minutes.

Roundtable updates

- People need help filling out forms – especially people who don't speak English.
- We are considering developing a survey for justice courts regarding what kinds of pro bono services are offered/needed.
- There are conversations happening in Salt Lake County around bringing social services into court, to connect litigants with needed assistance.
- Utahlegalhelp.org is being updated to provide more helpful information and direct people to more helpful information.
- Law Day was a successful and fun event.
- There is a need for more resources outside of Salt Lake County.
- There are many volunteer opportunities at TLC – the summer and fall are some of their busiest times.
- Appellate e-filing is online. They are using Tybera. It will allow people to file and to view their dockets. The service is directly through Tybera and not through Green Filing.
- The courts are doing a lot of outreach this summer, including in SLC for Pride, Ogden Pride, in St. George, and trying to focus on some more rural areas. Outreach includes how to access courts, information on legal services, and our self-help services.
- The court has hired more staff interpreters to help with Spanish interpretation.
- Utah 2-1-1 might be interested in receiving this training
 - They see high levels of need in housing, regarding rent or resolution of disputes between tenants and landlords
 - They also see that people need help navigating and accessing services

Update re: legal navigators

- We met in the spring of 2022 to discuss priorities for the committee
- We centered around the need for navigators to help people get help within the legal system
- There is now a project in the works to train non-lawyers to provide limited legal advice in the areas of debt collection, eviction, and housing. Below are details:
 - It will train social workers and employees of nonprofit social services organizations to become community justice advocates (CJAs). The CJAs will provide legal advice and guidance in high-need legal areas, starting with debt collection and then expanding to areas such as housing and domestic violence.
 - The program is expected to train approximately 50 CJAs in the first year, split roughly equally between debt collection and housing, and to grow each subsequent year.
 - The debt collection CJAs will be trained and supervised through a partnership between Utah State University's Transforming Communities Institute and Nonprofit Legal Services of Utah. The housing stability CJAs (aka housing stability legal advocates) will be trained by Innovation for Justice (i4j) and supervised by a new nonprofit, Community Justice Advocates of Utah.

- The USU/NLSU partnership and Community Justice Advocates of Utah are each applying for authorization to operate within the Supreme Court's Office of Legal Services Innovation (aka "the Sandbox").
- Given the strong commitment from Utah State University, and its physical presence throughout the state, the hope and expectation is that CJA concept can scale up statewide and meaningfully move the needle on access to justice in Utah.

Comments:

- MyCase is helpful for folks:
 - It reduces clerical workload
 - It helps pro bono lawyers help people by giving people access to their filed documents
- It would nice if:
 - this could include some help for clerical staff
 - these programs could use search engine optimization to direct people to what they need as early on in the process as possible

Update re: community voice in the courts

- We are in the process presenting to various court committees to check in with them regarding adding community voice to court committees to aid the courts in effective administration.
- We expect to have a substantive update in July.
- It would be good to:
 - Think about what kinds of voices would be helpful hear from within our committee.

Update re: debt collection reforms

- The Supreme Court received the proposal regarding debt collection reform and is exploring how to implement this.

Our next meeting was moved to June 13.