

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2021

Zoom Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Justice Deno Himonas, presiding

Attendees:

Justice Deno Himonas, Co-Chair
Judge Amber Mettler, Co-Chair
Matthew Page
Jackie Morrison
Elizabeth Wright
Monte Sleight
Angela Allen
Steve Johnson

Staff:

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar
Marina Kelaidis, Recording Secretary

Excused:

Heather Farnsworth
Julie Emery

Guests:

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law
Anna Carpenter, S.J. Quinney College of Law

1. Action—Welcome and approval of the draft meeting minutes: (Judge Mettler)

Justice Himonas welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes.

Elizabeth Wright moved to approve the April 20, 2021 minutes. Justice Himonas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion—Update from Angela Allen on current casework and projects: (Angela Allen)

Ms. Allen reported she has received a few calls following a recent KUTV article in which she focused on illuminating the difficulties associated with virtual hearings for pro se parties. She also reported she and Scotti Hill recently had an opportunity to speak with Kim Paulding at the Utah Bar Foundation to discuss how LPPs can assist pro se parties in areas such as Mediation.

Ms. Allen also reported the LPPs have excellent communication among one another such that they are able to ask each other questions and offer referrals. Overall, Ms. Allen reported the LPPs are very smart and capable professionals and the communication has

been very positive. Ms. Allen proposed organizing a Zoom meeting with all of the LPPs and Ms. Hill soon.

3. Discussion—Update on evaluation project: (Professor Anna Carpenter)

Professor Carpenter reported they are actively working on drafting the four sets of surveys aimed at gathering data on LPP program quality and views about the LPP program. The target demographics for these surveys are lawyers, paralegals, current LPPs, and clients. Professor Carpenter reported they intend to gather data using these surveys from demographics outside of Utah as well. They are aiming to have a couple of survey drafts to present and gather feedback on at the next Committee meeting.

4. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee: (Judge Mettler, Jackie Morrison, Scotti Hill,Carolynn Clark)

Ms. Hill reported Monte Sleight drafted a proposed amendment to Rule 15-703 that would allow an LPP candidate to use law-related academic credits as experience hours, so long as the course is offered by an approved law school or program and it is a substantive legal course offered pursuant to a particular practice area or a paralegal studies degree. If the course is a general education credit or an elective course, the applicant can lobby the Admissions Committee for review of the course to be accepted as experience hours. Ms. Hill reported the Subcommittee is continuing to work on this proposed rule change and hopes to have a draft for the Committee to review at the next meeting.

5. Discussion and Action—Review and approve amendments to LPP Rules: (Scotti Hill)

Rule 15-710:

Administration of the licensed paralegal practitioner examination(s):

Justice Himonas recommended adding “licensed” to any reference to a “paralegal practitioner” throughout each of the rules. Steve Johnson recommended reviewing and amending the paragraph numbering throughout each of the rules to ensure accuracy.

Rule 15-711:

Grading and passing the licensed paralegal practitioner examination:

and

Rule 15-713:

Ethics Exam:

Justice Himonas asked the Committee to consider the passing score in paragraph (d) of Rule 15-711 as well as paragraph (a) of Rule 17-713, and asked how this score was determined. Ms. Hill reported the passing score was calculated by Ergometrics.

Rule 15-701:

Definitions:

No further changes.

Justice Himonas moved to approve the proposed changes to Rule 15-701. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rule 15-705:

Limited time waiver:

No further changes.

Justice Himonas moved to approve the proposed changes to Rule 15-705. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rule 15-703:

Qualifications for Licensure as a Licensed Legal Practitioner:

No further changes.

Justice Himonas moved to approve the proposed changes to Rule 15-703. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Discussion—Update from the Bar: (Elizabeth Wright, Scotti Hill, Matthew Page).

Elizabeth Wright reported there were 42 comments received on the proposed changes to Rule 14-802. The vast majority of comments opposed the proposed changes. Of the opposing comments, most communicated a concern regarding the aptitude of the LPP to sit at counsel table and participate in court proceedings. Ms. Wright proposed including an explanation of the scope of the rule to address some of these concerns if the rules changes are adopted by the Supreme Court.

Ms. Hill reported four applicants passed the March 2021 iteration of the LPP exam. All four candidates will not be formally admitted until they complete the National Certification requirement. Ms. Hill also reported the Admissions Committee has admitted four additional applicants for the August 2021 exam. In addition, Ms. Hill reported Utah Valley University recently contacted her with the number of enrollments for the upcoming semester of LPP courses and there is a large number of students registered.

Matthew Page reported he has been working on a draft press release regarding the name change. Once the draft is approved by the Committee and the Court, Mr. Page proposed for the press release to be published by the Court.

7. Discussion—Update on rural outreach: (Steve Johnson)

Mr. Johnson reported he has not received any further communication from Professor McIff and Snow College. Ms. Allen reported she has also reached out to Professor McIff and has not received a response either.

8. Discussion—Update on outreach efforts: (Julie Emery, Monte Sleight)

Mr. Sleight reported enrollments are up at Salt Lake Community College for the upcoming paralegal courses. In addition, they have received a lot of questions from new students regarding the LPP program.

9. Discussion—Old business/new business:

Nothing new to report.

10. Adjournment and next meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2021 from 12:00p.m.–1:30p.m. via Zoom.