

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021

Zoom Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Judge Amber Mettler, presiding

Attendees:

Judge Amber Mettler, Chair
Jackie Morrison
Angela Allen
Tonya Wright
Matthew Page
Steve Johnson
Monte Sleight

Guests:

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law
Susan Morandy, LPP
Leslie Staples, LPP
Meredith Farrell, LPP

Staff:

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar
Marina Kelaidis, Recording Secretary

Excused:

Julie Emery

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

Judge Amber Mettler welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes.

Tonya Wright moved to approve the October 19, 2021 minutes. Scotti Hill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion—Introduction of potential Steering Committee members: Susan Morandy, Meredith Farrell, and Leslie Staples: (Scotti Hill)

Ms. Hill introduced Susan Morandy, LPP, Meredith Farrell, LPP and Leslie Staples, LPP. Each guest gave a brief overview of their LPP background and why they are interested in joining the Committee. Ms. Hill reported Ms. Morandy is interested in performing the recording secretary duties for the Committee.

3. Discussion—Update from Angela Allen and Tonya Wright on current casework and projects: (Angela Allen, Tonya Wright)

Ms. Allen reported she recently accepted a paralegal position at the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office and is resigning from the Committee.

Ms. Wright reported she is now a member of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. Ms. Wright also reported she currently has three active cases she is working on and she is continuing to receive a high number of client contacts regarding landlord tenant matters.

Judge Mettler asked if any of the LPPs have had an opportunity to participate at counsel table since the rule change went into effect. Ms. Wright reported her first opportunity to participate in this manner will be at a review hearing scheduled next week. Ms. Wright and an attorney from her firm will be communicating with the Commissioner to determine if Ms. Wright can appear in this hearing as well as future similar review hearings to answer any questions from the court, prepare orders, etc.

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

Ms. Hill gave a brief overview of the redline versions of Rules 15-701 and 15-703, prepared by the Subcommittee and Nancy Sylvester, Bar's General Counsel.

Rule 15-701:

Definitions:

Judge Mettler asked the Committee to discuss possible amendments to paragraph (ff). Ms. Hill recommended removing the last sentence of the paragraph, to which the Committee agreed. Ms. Hill also proposed expanding the landlord-tenant and debt collection supervision requirement to include LPPs as an approved supervisor of law-related experience. Ms. Hill explained this rule amendment would allow working LPPs to mentor prospective LPPs. Ms. Hill will work with Ms. Sylvester to incorporate this change into Rule 15-703. Once completed, Ms. Hill will circulate the proposed amendments via email to the Committee for approval.

Ms. Wright recommended amending paragraph (q) to include common law marriage. Ms. Hill will also circulate this proposed amendment to the Committee via email for approval.

Rule 15-703:

Qualifications for Licensure as a Licensed Paralegal Practitioner:

Steve Johnson recommended renumbering paragraphs (a)(6)–(7) as well as (d)(1)–(5) to be more accurate.

Steve Johnson moved to conditionally approve the proposed changes to Rule 15-701(q), 15-701(ff) and 15-703.Carolynn Clark seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Discussion—Update from the Bar: (Scotti Hill, Matthew Page).

Matthew Page reported the Bar recently ran a BrandView advertisement with Desert Digital Media. These advertisements have been a successful marketing tool for the LPP program in the past, and Mr. Page anticipates an increase in communications traffic soon. Mr. Page also reported there was an Access to Justice conference on Twitter last week and there were a lot of questions and conversation surrounding Utah’s LPP program. Mr. Page attended the conference and was able to speak on the development, challenges, and successes of Utah’s program, as well as the ongoing support of the Supreme Court.

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

Mr. Johnson reported he is developing a one-page informational handout to be disseminated at school presentations and other networking opportunities. Mr. Johnson will send the draft to Ms. Hill for finalization.

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

Nothing new to report.

8. Discussion—Old business/new business:

Steve Johnson moved to approve Susan Morandy as the Recording Secretary. Steve Johnson also moved to approve Leslie Staples and Meredith Farrell as Committee members. Judge Amber Mettler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Judge Mettler reported the Committee has received approval from the Court to expand to 15 voting members. Monte Sleight recommended including one or more LPPs from the rural districts if possible.

The Committee also discussed the Committee’s meeting schedule for 2022. Committee meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month from 4:00–5:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment and next meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2021 from 12:00p.m.–1:30 p.m. via Zoom.