

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2021
Zoom Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Scotti Hill, presiding

Attendees:

Judge Amber Mettler, Chair
Susan Morandy, LPP,
Recording Secretary
Leslie Staples, LPP
Tonya Wright
Matthew Page
Steve Johnson

Guests:

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Staff:

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar

Excused:

Monte Sleight

1. Action—Welcome and approval of the draft meeting minutes: (Scotti Hill)

Scotti Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes.

Steve Johnson moved to approve the November 16, 2021 minutes. Tonya Wright seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Scotti asked everyone if they got the invites for the new meeting schedule. If anyone did not receive a new invite please contact Scotti.

2. Discussion—Update from Tonya Wright on current casework and projects.

Tonya advised that she got a few new debt collection cases and that the hearings before the commissioners have been continued to January. She will report on how they go at the next meeting. Tonya advised that she has now signed up for mediator training.

Tonya noted that a Bar Journal Article in the Nov/Dec issue about access to justice had no mention of LPPs and that the AAML CLE held in December had a session on access to justice there was no mention of LPPs.

Scotti Hill advised that she is on the Bar Journal committee and agrees that more needs to be done to educate attorneys.

3. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee. (Carolynn Clark and Judge Mettler)

Carolynn Clark advised that the I4J group in Arizona, in conjunction with the UofU and working with the “sandbox”, train nonlawyers to give legal advice in specific areas such as domestic violence protective orders and medical debt advocates, housing instability advocates, and wants to run a similar program through Utah’s LPPs and Licensed Legal Professionals. This would be creating a special license to nonlawyers to give legal advice in specific areas and would not include filling out forms or filing forms.

Discussion on who oversees this and Judge Medler advised that I4J program is working on a detailed proposal that includes drafting rules, licensing requirements, etc. These types of special licenses are intended to be for free services. Discussion on if this is more appropriate for the sandbox or under this Committee. Steve Johnson commented that he believes this should go through the sandbox then come to our committee as this committee can’t make rules until it understands how it operates.

Discussion on umbrella under which LPP, HELA, and LLPs operate. The Supreme Court wants to create “LSP” - Legal Service Providers and is working on how the Bar wants it to look. Scotti Hill advised that Justice Himonas is in favor of further discussions about the I4J proposal and would like to have something to share by the end of the year.

Matthew Page advised that there was still a lot of misconception on LPPs and there is a need to inform attorneys. Discussion on having more articles in the Bar Journal and possibly a section or corner dedicated to LPPs as informative and educational. Scotti Hill advised that she would bring this up at the next Bar Journal committee meeting.

4. Discussion—Update from Bar. (Scotti Hill)

Scotti Hill advised that the Supreme Court approved the revisions of Rules 15-701 and 15-703, and that public comment was open and provided a link to that public comment. Public comment ends 1/21/22

Scotti advised that there are four LPP applicants taking the Bar exam in March and one of them is from Ephraim attending Snow College.

Scotti advised that there needs to be a discussion and more education on civility between attorneys and LPPs and advised that there will be a breakfast social at the Spring Conventions and a session on civility that includes a panel made up of an LPP, a lawyer and someone from the Bar on civility.

Scotti advised that she is working with the LPPs to start a referral network so that LPPs can have access to attorneys to assist or take over cases if necessary.

Matthew Page commented about a survey sent out to attorneys regarding views on LPPs and this survey would be sent out a couple more times before it closes in the middle of January.

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

Mr. Johnson is still working on preparing an informational handout to get out before the next meeting. Mr. Johnson advised that the definition of Lawyer includes LPPs, but in Rule 1.5 LPPs have to state they are not an attorney. Nancy Sylvester is preparing draft language to resolve this conflict. r

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

Neither Julie or Monte were present.

7. Discussion—Other Business: (Tonya Wright)

Tonya Wright questioned if any additional practice areas were being approved. Scottie advised that there were no updates on that, but that Rules 14.802, 15.703 and 15.701 were updated to account for common law marriage and Sex and Name changes. Tonya advised that the forms for expungement and Probate were already on the court's website.

8. Adjournment and next meeting:

Scotti again asked everyone if they got the invites for the new meeting schedule. If anyone did not receive a new invite please contact Scotti.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.