

## Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

### Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

Zoom Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*Judge Mettler, presiding*

#### **Attendees:**

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

#### **Guests:**

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law

#### **Staff:**

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar

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

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

*Steve Johnson moved to approve the December 21, 2021 minutes with changes. Tonya Wright seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

### **2. Discussion—Update from LPPs on current casework and projects.**

*Tonya Wright advised that she got a few new debt collection cases, was able to settle two debt collection cases and has one domestic mediation coming up. Leslee Staples advised that she mediated her first family law case in December and it went well and that her current caseload is about 3 active cases. Susan Morandy advised that she has had numerous new client calls and taken 5 new cases and her current caseload is about 8 active cases. Judge Mettler asked if any LPPs in attendance had any experience at the counsel table at a hearing. No one had so far.*

### **3. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee. (Carolynn Clark, Judge Mettler, Jacqueline Morrison)**

*Carolynn Clark advised that she had no further information regarding the I4J group in Arizona. She advised that last she heard was Stacey Butler from I4J was going to be doing a presentation to Access for Justice on medical debt. The subcommittee members decided to meet separately to discuss the proposal and how to approach the Bar office with the information and then bring a report back to this committee. The subcommittee wanted to do so before Justice Himonas leaves in order for the Supreme Court to review and give direction.*

**4. Discussion—Update from Bar/Innovation Subcommittee.** (Matthew Page)

*Scotti Hill advised that there was only one public comment on the revisions of Rules 15-701 and 15-703.*

*Scotti advised that there are five applicants taking the Bar exam in March.*

*Scotti advised she is working on having a panel session at the Spring Convention made up of an LPP, a lawyer and someone from the Bar on civility and to spread awareness of how LPPs are beneficial to firms.*

*Matthew Page advised that the survey received 787 responses and they were hoping to get good information/feedback from those responses.*

*It was also mentioned that Chief Justice Durrant's statements regarding access to justice did not mention LPPs and Scottie would talk with Nancy Sylvester about mentioning LPPs to Justice Durrant.*

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

*Mr. Johnson is still working on preparing a one page informational handout that has information about what LPPs can do and the requirements for licensing. Matthew Page will have a graphic designer look at the handout and clean it up.*

**6. Discussion—Update on outreach efforts:** None - Nobody present.

**7. Discussion—Other Business:** (Scotti Hill)

*Scottie advised that Ergo Metrics, the company that writes the exam, still has blanks in it, and that the Supreme Court stated the exam is to be a scaled score. The scores cannot be scaled until 35 people have taken and passed the exam and as soon as there have been sufficient tests taken then the rule will be amended immediately.*

Action item: Put together some draft rules to have the committee look at the next meeting.

*The areas the five candidates are taking the exam are: 2 in Family Law, 1 in Debt Collection, 1 in Eviction and one in both Debt Collection and Eviction. All candidates work in firms in their subject category.*

*Steve Johnson asked the Innovative Committee about reducing the number of experience hours and noted the recommendation was to make educational hours count towards experience hours, and the proposed amendment would cap out academic hours at about half.*

*Scottie advised that she attends the government relations committee meetings and that HB107 is a proposal to increase the small claims cap to \$15,000 through 2024 then it would increase to \$20,000 and then a few years after that it would increase to \$25,000 to account for inflation. 14.802 states that LPPs can practice in debt collections that do not exceed the amounts of small claims.*

*Discussion on the HB045 changing Justice Court judge qualifications to requiring justice court judges to be a member of the Bar.*

*Scottie will send out some proposed dates and times for the Innovative Subcommittee to meet.*

**8. Adjournment and next meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.