

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

AGENDA

April 18, 2023

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83900093174?pwd=bnlGSmN0eXBmcFdiQVdkcnhzeHpsUT09>

Action —Approval of draft meeting minutes February 28, 2023	Judge Amber Mettler
Discussion —Update from the LPPs on current casework and projects	Tonya Wright, Meredith Farrell, Leslie Staples
Discussion —Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee	Scotti Hill, Jackie Morrison,Carolynn Clark, Tonya Wright
Discussion —Update from the Bar	Matthew Page, Kirsten Shumway
Discussion —Update on rural outreach	Steve Johnson
Discussion —Update on outreach efforts	Julie Emery, Monte Sleight
Discussion —Old business/new business Supreme Court Committee Rule Changes	Kirsten Shumway

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

Zoom Meeting

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Judge Amber Mettler, (Chair)

Steve Johnson (Excused)

Monte Sleight

Jacqueline (Jackie) Morrison

Carolynn Clark

Leslie Staples

Matthew Page

Tonya Wright

John Seegrist (Secretary)

Melissa Parache

Scotti Hill

Staff: Kirsten Shumway, Utah State Bar

1. Chairperson Judge Amber Mettler called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **Introductions.**
 - a. Two new committee members John Seegrist (Secretary) and Kirsten Shumway (LPP Administrator Utah State Bar).
 - b. Scotti Hill has taken a new role and will now represent the Office of Professional Conduct.
3. **Action— Approval of the draft meeting minutes:** (Judge Mettler)

- a. Judge Mettler asked for approval of the minutes from February 28, 2023.
 - b. Tonya moved to approve, Jackie seconded, the motion carried.
4. **Update from the LPPs on current casework and projects.** (Tonya Wright, Meredith Farrell, Leslie Staples)
- a. Tonya reported an increase in gender and name change requests.
 - b. Mention was made that the gender change requirements have been updated and should be reviewed.
 - c. LPPs' workload is still very heavy.
 - d. Leslie reported that Legal Aid is looking for LPPs to work in pro se hearings with Commissioner Sagers.
 - e. Judge Mettler provided an explanation of the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee for the benefit of the new members.
 - f. Scotti reported that to date there have been no violations against an LPP with the Office of Professional Conduct.
 - g. Question on what to call the LPPs. Concerns over confusion with the court and the public on the role of the LPPs and how it differs from a paralegal. Courts are using different term (e.g., legal practitioner).
 - h. Question on the LPP's role with the modest means program. Matt was asked to provide a follow up for discussion in the next meeting. Melissa feels LPPs participating in Modest Means is a natural fit as LPPs are already charging less than Attorneys.
5. **Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee.** (Scotti Hill, Jackie Morrison, Carolynn Clark, Tonya Wright)

a. Tonya Where do we expand?

- i. Can LPPs handle small claims? Scotti feels it may be time to gage this court's opinion on this question. Tonya is in support because of the simplicity of the cases but would draw a line if the case moves to the district court. Tonya said forms are already provided online. However small claim rule 13 says it can be done if not compensated. Tonya thinks the rule might need to be amended.

b. Expungement

- i. Monti recommends LPPs take the training attorneys take.
- ii. Clean slate training day may move to an online training with the new expungement laws.
- iii. How will BCI manage expungement, with new "auto expungement" rules. BCI is currently understaffed for the workload they have.
- iv. Melissa expressed concern that there are people that need this to be employable. Can LPPs help with the process?
- v. AJ was working on adding expungement to the allowed practices. The innovation committee needs to decide on wording and training requirements for proposal.
- vi. Added to the innovation committee for May.

c. Pro se

- i. (No report)

d. Rural areas how do we support.

- i. (No report)

e. Foreign law degrees: can they be incorporated into the LPP program.

- i. Kirsten said legal degrees must be from a country based on English common law.
- ii. Monti thought if any bachelor's degree (not law related) will qualify why not consider any foreign law degree to qualify the same as a bachelors. This would allow the inclusion of a population that is unrepresented and vulnerable.
- iii. Matt reported a half dozen inquiries a week.

6. Update from the Bar. (Matthew Page, Kirsten Shumway)

- a. Marketing for LPP limited due to LPPs' high workload. Focus is on getting more people to become LPPs.
- b. LPPs are not in competition with the attorneys.
- c. All four LPPs passed the Spring LPP exam.
- d. LPPs should be encouraged to be on Licensed Lawyer as there is good LPP traffic. (<https://www.licensedlawyer.org/>)
- e. Kirsten requests to move the "other help" screen in OCAP to the first of the OCAP process. Kirsten to reach out to Nathaniel Player with this suggestion.

7. Update on rural outreach. (Steve Johnson)

- a. Universal Webex policy conversations needed to improve consistency.
- b. Third District Court pilot program improving when people can join by Webex.
- c. Third District Court does state and case management conferences by Webex.
- d. Courts have been requesting motions appear by telephone/Webex for "non-substantive" hearings.

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

a. (No report)

9. Old business/new business Supreme Court Committee Rule Changes. (Kirsten Shumway)

a. (No report)

10. Recruiting new members

a. (No report)

11. Next meeting

a. May 16th, 2023, 4:00 PM