



Utah Supreme Court's Oversight Committee for the Office of Professional Conduct

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

Meeting held through Webex and in person

Matheson Courthouse

Judicial Council Room

450 S. State St.

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

4:30–5:30 p.m.

Arthur B. Berger, presiding

Attendees:

Arthur Berger, Chair

Judge Laura Scott

Roger Smith

Margaret Plane

Elizabeth Wright, Ex-officio member

Guests:

Christine Greenwood, Office of Professional Conduct

Nathan Severin, Utah State Bar

Staff:

Nick Stiles, Appellate Court Administrator

Amber Griffith, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and approval of the November 15, 2023 and February 6, 2024 minutes: (Arthur Berger)

Arthur Berger welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Christine Greenwood on being appointed the new Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Office of Professional Conduct. Mr. Berger also introduced Nathan Severin the finance director for the Bar.

Mr. Berger noted Ms. Greenwood is working on some potential rule changes, but with the transition to her new position the proposals are not ready to be submitted to the

committee. Ms. Greenwood will continue working on the amendments and submit them for the next meeting.

Following those introductions and updates, Mr. Berger asked for approval of the November 15, 2023 and February 6, 2024 minutes.

Judge Scott moved to approve both sets of minutes. Roger Smith seconded that motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Action—OPC Proposed Budget: (Christine Greenwood, Nathan Severin)

Ms. Greenwood presented the proposed budget for the OPC and noted two main changes. One change includes a salary increase for almost all staff within the OPC. The second change is regarding the new database that OPC needs. As the OPC prepares for the new database they plan to take storage of data to the cloud, so the annual storage fee for that has increased. Ms. Greenwood added that the company building the new database has offered to complete it for free. Mr. Severin also noted that funding for the new database was put in reserves from previous budget years.

Roger Smith questioned why the health insurance, retirement contributions, and telephone costs have all decreased. Mr. Severin explained that both the health insurance costs and retirement contributions have been reduced because of recent staff changes within the OPC. Clarifying that their health insurance is charged based on age and various other factors. Additionally, with the bar, time contributions are available after being employed for one year. As for the telephone costs, the IT department was able to secure a new contract that cut the number of lines they were using, the telephone cost decrease was seen across the bar's budget.

Following the presentation of the budget and following questions Mr. Smith moved to approve the proposed budget. Judge Scott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. Action—OPC Annual Report: (Christine Greenwood)

Mr. Berger introduced the next item on the agenda noting that the annual report was put together by Billy Walker, the previous Chief Disciplinary Office for the OPC. Ms. Greenwood then provided a brief explanation of the report. The report provides an explanation of the disciplinary process and how the OPC handles complaints that come in. Additionally, the report includes statistics of the number of complaints filed, the number of cases processed through the OPC, and screening panel outcomes from the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.

Judge Scott questioned if 28 cases being handled by screening panels was typical. Ms. Greenwood stated that it was significantly lower than most years and may have been caused by turnover in the OPC. Typical numbers are closer to 50-60 cases a year.

Ms. Greenwood then noted that OPC's goal is to process as many cases as it takes in during a year, that goal was missed by about 10 cases for 2023. The OPC plans to continue working on achieving that goal and will develop new goals for 2024.

The meeting was then adjourned.