

**UTAH STATE BAR  
BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

**UTAH LAW AND JUSTICE CENTER  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

**In Attendance:** President Cara Tangaro, Kim Cordova, Miriam Allred, Christian Clinger, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, Mark Morris, Shawn Newell, Jess Couser, Olivia Shaughnessy.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Nate Alder (Zoom), Jennifer Carver, Erik Christiansen, Tiffany Shimada, Nick Stiles, Katie Woods.

**Not in Attendance:** Tom Bayles, Brett Chambers, Matt Hansen, Rick Hoffman, Tyler Young. Ex-Officio members: Andy Gonzalez, Ezzy Khaosanga, Dean Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Eli McCann, Britt Merrill, Dean David Moore.

**Also in Attendance:** Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Schade, Finance Director Nathan Severin, Well Being Consultant Liz Silvestrini, Law Related Education Executive Director Princess Gutierrez, Jeff Holman

## **1. President's Welcome and Reports: Cara Tangaro**

Ms. Tangaro introduced Ms. Couser for her first Commission Meeting as 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Commissioner.

### **1.1 NCBP Meeting Report: Kim Cordova**

Ms. Cordova shared her experience at the NCBP meeting in Phoenix, including the presentation about AI in the legal profession and how it can be embraced. Additionally, many bars hold civic programs and aim to educate the public.

### **1.2 ABA House of Delegates Report: Tiffany Shimada**

Ms. Shimada reported the themes at the ABA House of Delegates Conference, which felt very positive and great to gather in person. Big topics include the safety of the courts, Law School graduates with juvenile records, CLE credit for Mock Trials, YLD pushing for time off credit/paid time off. Mr. Christiansen, as ABA Board of Directors, shared that a portion of the ABA budget is from government grants and in turn, they have filed a lawsuit against the US government.

### **1.3 Legislative Update**

Ms. Tangaro shared the GRC meetings every Tuesday at noon about all the bills that are on the schedule and have a discussion with all committee leaders. A call for action went

out to all lawyers about getting involved and giving feedback about what, if anything, could be changed to help revise some of the bills. The committee had a discussion on current and upcoming bills and how to move forward.

#### **1.4 Spring Convention Report**

Ms. Tangaro announced that the agenda is posted on the website, and hopes to see many of the commissioners in attendance. Ms. Wright will talk to Michelle Oldroyd about the commission splitting up the introduction of speakers and breakout rooms.

#### **1.5 St. George Room Reservations Reminder**

Ms. Tangaro reminded the Commission to book their lodging for the Spring Convention as soon as possible.

## **2. Action Items**

#### **2.1 Select Dorathy Merrill Brothers Award Recipient**

Ms. Woods shared the process that the awards committee goes through when considering award nominations.

After discussion, Ms. Cordova made a motion to award Tara Isaacson as the Dorathy Merrill Brothers Award recipient. Ms. Tangaro seconded, and the motion was approved.

#### **2.2 Select Raymond Uno Award Recipient**

Ms. Woods shared the recommendation of the Awards Committee.

Ms. Cordova made a motion to award Abby Dizon-Maughan as the Raymond Uno Award recipient. Mr. Morris seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **2.3 Well-Being Impact Award**

Ms. Woods reported the committee recommended Ms. Tangaro for the Well-Being Impact Award. Ms. Cordova made a motion to award Cara Tangaro as the Well-Being Impact Award recipient. Ms. Couser seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **2.4 Proposed Fractional Section: Jeff Holman**

Mr. Holman reported that the Fractional Law is about practice between the in-house and out-of-house counsel. Looking for a section to address the unique position and practice of fractional law. The Commission discussed whether the section was needed because existing sections could meet the educational and networking requirements for the proposed section.

Mr. Clinger made a motion not to approve the creation of a new Fractional Law Section but encourage them to reapply in a few years. Mr. Morris seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **2.5 Section Administrative Fees: Elizabeth Wright and Nathan Severin**

Ms. Wright reported that the Bar currently charges \$7 per section member to cover the Bar's administrative costs for each section. The Bar has charged this amount since at least 2005. The administrative support includes:

1. Time spent by the Finance Department collecting the dues, issuing checks, preparing monthly financial statements, and issuing payments on behalf of the sections.
2. IT Department support and website support.
3. Contract review and approval by General Counsel.
4. CLE staff time spent on section support, including section communications, mailings, e-mail notices, setting up events for registration, assisting with obtaining MCLE accreditation, entering attendance for CLEs, and ordering section lunches if needed.
5. Membership database resources.
6. Credit card fees.
7. Zoom account licenses.

For the 2025 licensing year, the traceable cost of these services was \$104,612 and the amount collected from sections for these services was \$65,576. Mr. Severin proposed a new proportional fee structure to cover the Bar's traceable costs for administrative support based on a percentage of revenue and member numbers.

Mr. Christiansen and Mr. Clinger recommended having a conversation with the sections before approving. Ms. Tangaro asked for talking points for the Commission to use when talking with their sections about this new fee structure, so the communication is uniform.

Ms. Tangaro made a motion to increase the new section administrative fee with a policy to review every three years. Ms. Allred seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **3. Information Items**

### **3.2 New Well-being Consultant: Liz Silvestrini**

Ms. Tangaro introduced Liz Silvestrini as the new Well-being Consultant. Ms. Silvestrini shared her passion and vision for the well-being committee and movement in the State of Utah and the Law profession.

### **3.2 Report from Law Related Education: Princess Gutierrez**

Ms. Gutierrez gave an overview of the programs LRE runs for Utah students including Mock Trial, Peer Court and We the People. The programs teach students about the judiciary and the rule of law. Ms. Gutierrez also provided an update about staffing

changes, their financial audit, and policy review and program status within Law Related Education.

## **4. Additional Items**

### **4.1 Judicial Counsel**

Ms. Woods shared that the Judicial Counsel planned to order new computers later in the year. However, concerns about possible tariffs that would increase the cost by at least \$400,00, they asked the council members to vote to approve the immediate purchase of the computer. She advised that if the Bar also needs new tech to also rush those orders.

## **Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned at 11:35 am

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the January 10, 2025 Commission Meeting