

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Homestead Resort, Midway, Utah

Friday, August 22, 2025

In Attendance: President Kim Cordova, Brett Chambers, Mark Morris, Ezzy Khaosanga, Shawn Newell, Olivia Shaughnessy, Jess Couser, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, Miriam Allred, and Tyler Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Nate Alder, Jennifer Carver, Erik Christiansen, Nick Stiles, Holly Nelson, Alex Vandiver, Wayne Latu, and Eli McCann.

Not in Attendance: Tom Bayles, Christian Clinger, and Rick Hoffman and Ex-Officio members Katie Woods, Cara Tangaro, Dean Kronk Warner, Dean Moore, and Tiffany Shimada.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director Elizabeth A. Wright, Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Schade, General Counsel Maribeth LeHoux, Communications Director Jennifer Weaver.

1. President's Welcome and Reports

1.1 Retreat Schedule and Events

Ms. Wright discussed the schedule for the evening, including dinner at 6:30. Tomorrow breakfast will be before the meeting, which begins at 8:30. The retreat meeting will be about crisis management/communications and communication strategies.

1.2 Report on "Commission Speaks" in Vernal

As part of an effort to connect with lawyers and judges outside of the Wasatch front, Mr. Young organized a CLE in Vernal, which took place in July. Over 20 people attended, including two judges, one of whom presented. In addition to the CLE, they discussed JPEC. Mr. Young intends to hold 10-12 more meetings in rural areas and smaller cities throughout the state.

1.3 Report on National Conference of Bar Presidents Meeting

Ms. Cordova provided a report on the national conference, which included a focus on AI. Ms. Wright talked about the National Conference of Bar Executives meeting she attended.

1.4 Report on New Mexico State Bar Annual Conference

Ms. Tangaro discussed the conference which she attended. Bryan Johnston (*Just Mercy*) was the guest speaker. Discussions included ideas for generating income.

1.5 Report on Attorney Oath Video

Ms. Wright discussed the video, which included different attorneys reciting the attorney oath. The video focuses on the importance of the oath and what it means.

1.6 Dates to Calendar

Ms. Wright highlighted the following dates and upcoming events:

- Access to Justice Summit – October 3, 2025. 8-5 at the Utah Law and Justice Center
- Admissions Ceremony – October 7, 2025 at the Grand Theatre and Salt Lake Community College South City Campus
- Fall Forum – November 13-14, 2025 at Little America. Ms. Cordova emphasized the importance of having more commissioners there. Ms. Khaosanga suggested a panel with commissioners
- November 19 – annual lawyer/legislator breakfast. 7:30 am at the Capitol
- September – Constitution Day. There is info and materials on the website created for lawyers and the public. This is the Bar’s first initiative of civic education

2. Information Items

2.1 Court Response to Bar Audit

Ms. Cordova discussed the audit conducted by the Court Auditor with the assistance of the State Auditor. Before the Court audit was reviewed and accepted by the Utah Supreme Court, former State Auditor John Dougall took it upon himself to write a letter to the legislature giving his opinion about Bar license fees and programs he sees as useful or inappropriate. The legislature is very interested in Mr. Dougall’s letter because it is critical of the Supreme Court. Accordingly, the legislative Rules and Review and General Oversight Committee scheduled a hearing to discuss Mr. Dougall’s opinions about the regulation of the practice of law in Utah. Elizabeth Wright and the Court’s lobbyist Michael Drechsel appeared before the Committee. The Commission discussed the hearing.

2.2 ABA House of Delegates Meeting and ABA Annual Meeting

Mr. Christiansen provided an update on the Annual ABA Meeting. Ms. Shimada, Mr. Alder, and Ms. Khaosanga attended. He discussed the importance of involvement, and some of the important resolutions that passed.

3. Action Items

3.1 Appoint 2nd Division Commissioner to Replace Matt Hansen

Ms. Cordova discussed the opening created by Mr. Hansen’s appointment to the bench. It is a full 3-year term since he just ran. The Commission discussed both candidates, who were both extremely qualified. The Commission requested statements of interest from the candidates and would vote by email once they have the additional requested materials.

3.2 Appoint YLD ABA Delegate

After a discussion about the candidates, Ms. Cordova made a motion to appoint Nicole Johnson as the YLD ABA delegate. Ms. Khaosanga seconded, and the motion was approved, with one Commissioner voting in opposition.

3.3 Appoint Committee Chairs

Update: For the Awards Committee Adam Bondy and Martin Stulz (both current committee members) are nominated as chairs.

Update: For the Innovation in Law Committee, Nick Haffen and Anastacia Boyko are nominated as chairs.

Ms. Allred made a motion to appoint the Committee Chairs as presented, including the updates. Ms. Mancuso-Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3.4 Appoint Commission Liaisons

The Commission discussed the role of committee liaisons. Ms. Couser and Ms. Allred switched their positions (UPL to Ms. Couser and Lawyers Helping Lawyers to Ms. Allred).

Ms. Cordova made a motion to approve the Commission Liaison appointments. Ms. Allred seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3.5 Purchase Table for Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society Benefit will be on October 3, 2025. The cost to purchase a table is \$1750. Ms. Cordova made a motion to purchase a table for the Legal Aid Society benefit. Mr. Young seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Consent Agenda.

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the June 13, 2025 Commission Meeting
- 2025-2026 Committee Charges