

UTAH STATE BAR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Dixie Center – St. George, Utah

In Attendance: Kim Cordova, Miriam Allred, Tom Bayles, Christian Clinger, Jess Couser, Yvette Donosso, Ezzy Khaosanga, Mark Morris, Shawn Newell, and Tyler Young.

Ex-Officio Members: Cara Tangaro, Erik Christiansen, Nate Alder, Jessica Ramirez, Alex Vandiver, Nicole Johnston, Holly Nelson, Nick Stiles and Katie Woods.

Not in Attendance:, Brett Chambers, Rick Hoffman, Chrystal Mancuso-Smith, and Olivia Shaughnessy, and Ex-Officio members Dean Kronk Warner, Dean Moore, Jennifer Peterson, Tiffany Shimada, and Eli McCann.

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

1. President's Welcome and Reports

Ms. Cordova thanked everyone for traveling to St. George for the meeting and Spring Convention.

1.1 Review Spring Convention Schedule

Mr. Young reported that the Convention was sold out. Registration starts tomorrow at 8:30, and the first speaker will be at 9:00. The Commission dinner will be tonight at Wood Ash Rye.

1.2 Commission Elections

Ms. Cordova reminded the Commission that elections begin April 1. There is a contested race in the Third District. Mr. Bayles will give his speech for president-elect on Friday morning.

1.3 Sun Valley Registration

Ms. Cordova informed the Commission that registration will open for the Summer Convention on March 23. There will be a big launch and push for registration. We are hoping to sell out the event.

1.4 Report on Commission Speaks Events

Mr. Young provided an update on the Commission Speaks events he has been helping to organize and host. They have had events in Heber, Vernal, and other places. Mr. Chambers is going to do one in Logan, and we're working to schedule events in St. George and Ogden. Ms. Cordova noted that the events have been very successful, and the courts in Ogden reached out about scheduling an event.

1.5 Looking Ahead:

- a. Justice Rising Breakfast – April 21 at the Grand America
- b. America 250 – May 21 at the Grand America
- c. Admissions Ceremony – May 22 at the North Building at the Capitol
- d. May 15th – Past Presidents and 50-year Practice Luncheon at the Law and Justice Center
- e. Well-Being in the Law Week – May 4-8. Virtual and in-person events scheduled

1.6 Report on Legislative Session

Ms. Cordova thanked everyone for their involvement throughout the session. Commissioners had a press conference, did talk shows, testified in various senate and house committee hearings. The focus was on the public and education. The Bar became such a trusted voice that it got to the point that the media was reaching out to us. She believes we navigated things well while following our *Keller* limitations. She stated that got a lot of good movement and were able to make a lot of progress on our relationships with the legislature. She also said that there is lots of work we're going to have to do during the interim.

Mr. Clinger inquired as to the nature of the GRC recommendations. Ms. Wright informed the Commission that their recommendations are not binding to the Commission. Mr. Alder talked about the need for ongoing education of licensees and providing a post-session update. Ms. Cordova said that she is going to write something for the Bar Journal, as are the Bar's lobbyists. There will also be a CLE about various legislation that was adopted.

Ms. Nelson inquired as to other plans for the interim to help keep licensees engaged and momentum going.

Ms. Donosso made a motion for the Commission to bring in the GRC during the interim. Mr. Clinger seconded. The motion failed.

Mr. Young made a motion that the Commission reach out to specific sections for guidance when appropriate during the interim. Ms. Cordova seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action Items

2.1 Purchase Table for Law Day – May 1

The cost of the table is \$500 and seats 10.

Ms. Donosso made a motion to purchase a table for the Commission. Ms. Khaosanga seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

2.2 Purchase Table for America 250

Ms. Khaosanga made a motion to purchase a table for the Commission at the America 250 event at the Grand America for \$500. Ms. Donosso seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Information Item

3.1 Judicial Council Report

Ms. Woods reported that the Council has concerns about constitutional court. They worked with the IT team to create a truly random draw. She noted that the court panels will have a big impact on smaller districts, like the Sixth District, where there are only two judges. There are discussions as to whether there should be a carve out for brand new judges. Ms. Woods also discussed new courthouses that have been approved in Davis County and Cedar City.

3.2 Smokeball Free Trust Accounting Software

Ms. Wright and Ms. Schade discussed Smokeball. They are practice management software. They are offering a benefit to licensees for free – trust accounting and billing software. Ms. Schade and Ms. Weaver are working on the promotion plan. The Bar will get a royalty if people upgrade to paid services.

3.3 Communications Report

Ms. Weaver reported that the Bar is starting a big push to roll out registration for Sun Valley in April. She is helping to organize a law school for journalists in the Fall, which is also going to involve students. She is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts on that event.

Ms. Weaver has been exploring other communication methods beyond email and the Bar Journal. This includes podcasts and other digital medium.

She discussed the Bar's efforts for media monitoring, which she said is difficult to do ourselves. She believes it is important to know where we're being mentioned and what the sentiment is. Our reach has been very far and the Bar is viewed as a trustworthy voice.

Mr. Clinger made a motion requesting Ms. Weaver present to the Commission recommendations on news monitoring services. Mr. Young seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned at 4:45pm.

Consent Agenda.

The Commission approved by consent the following items:

- Minutes of the January 30, 2026 Commission Meeting