

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

**DECEMBER 8, 2017
LAW AND JUSTICE CENTER**

In Attendance: President John Lund, President-elect H. Dickson Burton, Commissioners: Grace Acosta, John Bradley, Steven Burt, Kate Conyers, Liisa Hancock, Mark Morris, Herm Olsen, Michelle Quist, Cara Tangaro, Heather Thuet, and Katie Woods.

Ex-Officio Members: Dean Robert Adler, Nate Adler, Erik Christiansen, Julie Emery, Amy Fowler, Dani Cepernich, Diana Hagen, Margaret Plane, Rob Rice, Jamie Sorenson, and Bebe Vanek.

Not in Attendance: Heather Farnsworth, Mary Kay Griffin, and Ex-Officio member Dean Gordon Smith.

Also in Attendance: Executive Director John C. Baldwin, Assistant Executive Director Richard Dibblee, General Counsel Elizabeth A. Wright and Supreme Court Liaison Catherine Dupont.

Minutes: 9:05 a.m. start

1. Current Issue “Deep Dive”

1.1 Diversity and Inclusion in the Utah State Bar. Representatives from four different groups presented to the Commission regarding diversity and inclusion efforts within our Bar.

Fran Wikstrom and Melinda Bowen presented on the Utah Center for Legal Inclusion (UCLI), which is a private 501(c)(3) working as an umbrella organization to coordinate diversity and inclusion efforts in the state. Recent designation as a 501(c)(3) means they can now begin fundraising. Money raised will be used to support data collection efforts and professional analysis of data and perhaps hire a part-time executive director.

Abby Dizon-Maughan and Jamie Sorenson presented on Utah Minority Bar Association (UMBA) efforts to support minority members of the Bar, promote diversity in the Bar by conducting outreach to potential lawyers beginning as early as elementary school. They also discussed barriers and unique difficulties faced by minority individuals and lawyers in Utah.

Judge Diana Hagen reported on the efforts of the Women Lawyers of Utah (WLU) to increase the percentage of women lawyers including outreach to young girls, to support women lawyers professionally and to encourage and support women in applying for judicial appointments and elected positions in state and national government.

Amy Fowler reported on LALU, the Bar affinity Bar for LGBT and Allied lawyers. In addition to efforts to encourage LGBT students to apply to law school, Ms. Fowler reported on LALU's efforts to support LGBT lawyers and provide legal support to the LGBT community. LALU also has a scholarship program for LGBT individuals interested in attending law school.

After the presentations, the Commission discussed ways the Bar can support diversity and inclusion efforts. Dean Adler reported that statistically proven bias in the LSAT and the requirement that individuals list even minor criminal history on law school and Bar applications as deterrents for many diverse people from even applying to law school. John Lund will meet individually with representatives from each group to discuss how the Bar can help them further their diversity goals. The Bar will also strengthen its diversity language for CLE presenters and Bar committee members.

2. President's Report: John Lund

- 2.1 Update on Access to Justice Director.** John Lund introduced Nik Stiles who will be the Bar's new Access to Justice Director. He also introduced Molly Barnowitz the Assistant to the Access to justice Coordinator, Lincoln Mead the Bar IT Director, and Katie Cooper who serves as the Bar's web services support person.
- 2.2 Committee of the Year Award to Governmental Relations Committee.** Governmental Relations Committee representatives were not able to accept the award at the Fall Forum so today the Commission presented the Committee of the Year Award to Committee Co-chair Jaqualin Friend.
- 2.3 Legislative Session Prep.** The Bar's lobbyists presented on the upcoming legislative session and how they intend to work with the Bar's Governmental Relations Committee to analyze legislation relevant to the practice of law. They also reported they intend to conduct more CLEs and write more Bar Journal articles to keep members educated about upcoming legislation that affects their practice area or the practice of law.
- 2.4 Report on Lighthouse Survey.** Lighthouse will survey individuals and small businesses about their use of legal services and the decision to use or not use a lawyer to solve their legal problems. Preparations have begun to conduct the survey beginning with phone surveys in January and focus groups in February.
- 2.5 Report on Breakfast Meeting with Large Firm Representatives.** The two breakfasts with large firm representatives to discuss issues facing the Bar and issues unique to them were very successful. November's meeting included the topic of recruiting and retaining women in large firm practices. The large firms seemed grateful for the outreach from the Bar and interested in future meetings. Grace Acosta pointed out that last year's efforts to reach out to small firms was also well received and how outreach by the Bar is generally welcome.

2.6 Report on Access to Justice Coordinating Committee. John Lund reported that he is in the process of inviting individuals to serve on the Committee.

3. Action Items.

3.1 2020 Summer Convention Site Selection. After discussion, **Kate Conyers moved that the 2020 Summer Convention be held in Park City. Katie Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed with Heather Thuet, Grace Acosta, Mark Morris and Michelle Quist opposed.**

3.2 Law & Justice Signage Change Proposals. Item tabled for a later date.

3.3 Appoint Sara Bouley Co-chair of Governmental Relation Committee. **Liisa Hancock moved to appoint Sara Bouley Co-chair of the Governmental Relations Committee. John Bradley seconded the motion which passed unopposed.**

3.4 Appoint Jon Hafen Co-chair of 2019 Summer Convention. **Heather Thuet moved to appoint Jon Hafen as Co-chair of the 2019 Summer Convention Committee. Liisa Hancock seconded the motion which passed unopposed.**

3.5 Public Notice of Discipline Policies. After a discussion regarding the policy and related Court rules, **Grace Acosta moved to ask the Court to clarify the Bar's understanding that the applicable rules require the Bar to maintain a public and permanent record of a lawyer's disbarment. Michelle Quist seconded the motion which passed with John Bradley and Herm Olsen opposed.**

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Utah Indigent Defense Commission. Director Joanna Landau reported on the work and goals of the Indigent Defense Commission. Jojo Liu reported on indigent defense issues unique to juveniles and parents in child removal cases. Both discussed how some of the rules inhibited adequate indigent defense and the efforts the Indigent Defense Commission is taking to improve the representation.

4.2 Leadership Academy Report. Jenifer Tomchak and Cheryl Mori reported on the last two sessions of the Leadership Academy and answered questions from the Commission about the selection process and policies of the Academy.

5. Other Business. None today.

6. Executive Session. None today.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda

1. Approved Minutes from the November 17, 2017 Commission Meeting.