



OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES INNOVATION

An Office of the Utah Supreme Court

LSI Committee Meeting Minutes January 24, 2023

Attendees

Board Members:

John Lund, Chair
Sue Crismon, Executive Director
Dr. Tom Clarke
Lucy Ricca
Dr. Rebecca Sandefur

Contractors:

Helen Lindamood
Will Pelletiers

Guests:

Nick Stiles

1. Discussion and Action: Pending and New Applications

Tabled Applications

Melendez - Immigration ABS. Low innovation, with the disclaimer that Utah court has limited auth. Ms. Crismon confirmed hiring a Utah lawyer as part of their business model. She also has 14 years of experience as an immigration paralegal.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the applicant for authorization to the Court.

Visa Finder - Immigration ABS. Low innovation, with the disclaimer that Utah court has limited auth. Ms. Crismon confirmed that the owner has an LLM and will hire a Utah lawyer. Mr. Lund raised adding the condition in the authorization upon hiring a Utah lawyer, but the Committee decided this condition would be redundant; a lawyer not licensed in Utah would potentially be violating their licensure obligations.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the applicant for authorization to the Court.

Utah Accident Finder - Community-based organization seeking ABS authorization. Ms. Crismon followed up; Utah Justicia looking to hire lawyers, contract or employee, for the non-profit.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the applicant for authorization to the Court.

New Applications

Luke, Johnson & Lewis is a debt collection company seeking authorization to file complaints, file writs of garnishments, and collect debts without a lawyer. If authorized as they applied, the entity would be a high innovation HALP. The application supports the Sandbox's access to justice framework by collecting debt for small businesses, including small law firms. Ms. Ricca

noted that the original application does not reflect the HALP request, which Ms. Crismon discerned from communications directly with the applicant. Ms. Crismon will summarize the entity's intentions and confirm with LJL before the Committee approves.

The Committee tabled the application.

Johnson Samoza - Mr. Johnson is the proposed partial owner who is a former attorney disbarred for defrauding clients. Mr. Stiles requested this application be tabled due to conflicts with the current program coordinator RFP.

The Committee tabled the application.

Life Law - The entity applied with proposed managerial control and financial investment, but no ownership interest, by a Nevada provisionally reinstated attorney; would this be considered just an ABS? Ms. Ricca confirmed the Court wants no suspended lawyers to have 10%+ ownership. Ms. Crismon to follow up on licensure status. If in good standing, it is not necessary to be in the Sandbox.

The Committee unanimously voted to deny the application.

Enforcement

D4U - Mr. Lund asked the Committee if the app would have been denied if the information disclosed was known at the time they were considering the application. The information seems primarily concerned with investigating the unauthorized practice of law, a crime in Florida, not consumer harm. Consensus- what Florida does is their business. D4U hasn't violated UT policy. Office to communicate to D4U and their lawyer that data needs to flow promptly and they are under watch. The Policy Committee to draft how to capture bar investigations for nonlawyers.

2. Discussion: Policies (Sue Crismon)

Bare Marketing

Draft from the Policy Committee will be circulated for email feedback.

Utah Scope Language

Draft from the Policy Committee will be circulated for email feedback.

3. Reports

Dr. Clarke motioned to approve the January 10th minutes as drafted. Ms. Ricca seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Court Update (Nick Stiles)

Court voted to re-appoint Nathanael Player, filling one of the three vacant committee seats.

The Bar updated the Court on the memo to be publicly published this week: the Bar could take on one full-time staff member for the Office with a salary of around \$70-\$80k. It is unclear what employment structure the employee would be under if the Office landed at the Bar.

The Chief touched on the Innovation Office in his remarks to the legislature last week, but there was no media coverage of these remarks.

Contractor Reports

Will Pelletiers

Mr. Pelletiers took on the December report and worked on ensuring he is the primary data reporting contact with Dr. Teufel's departure. Tackling restructuring/organizing some of the report information to streamline presentation and drafting.

Helen Lindamood

Ms. Lindamood's time in December was 60% administrative, 10% marketing and outreach, and 30% data and policy development support. Her January priorities include applying the style guide drafted in the new innovation manual to the other existing office documents, documenting program coordinator processes and necessary information in case of her replacement, and responding to application inquiries.

A discussion, led by Mr. Lund, ensued about the Committee's control of contractor deliverables.

4. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM. The next meeting will be on February 7, 2023, from 10:00 - 11:30 AM MST.