

In the Supreme Court of the State of Utah

----oo0oo----

In re: Application of Melendez Legal LLC

ORDER FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE LAW IN UTAH

Based upon the Utah Supreme Court's plenary and constitutionally granted authority to regulate the practice of law in Utah, and the tenets of Standing Order 15, the Utah Supreme Court orders that Melendez Legal LLC is authorized to practice law in Utah within the regulatory sandbox and subject to the restrictions outlined below.

The Court has reviewed the recommendation of the Office of Legal Services Innovation ("Innovation Office") dated April 6, 2023 for Melendez Legal LLC ("Melendez Legal") to be authorized to practice law in Utah as an ABS.

Melendez Legal will be solely owned by a non-lawyer experienced paralegal. Melendez Legal will have an office in Utah which will employ a licensed immigration attorney to provide all legal services.

The Innovation Office has assessed Melendez Legal's proposed entity structure, service methods, and legal areas, and has determined that Melendez Legal is a Low Innovation entity and that the risk of harm to its targeted consumers, relative to the risk of harm they currently face, is acceptable for authorization.

In light of the Court's responsibility to the public to effectively regulate the practice of law in Utah and in keeping with the tenets of Standing Order 15, the Court now orders as follows:

1. Melendez Legal is authorized to offer legal services through the following **service methods**:
 - a. ABS
 - i. Lawyers employed or managed by nonlawyer(s)
 - ii. Nonlawyer ownership (50% or more)

2. Melendez Legal is authorized to provide legal services across the following legal **areas**:
 - a. Key legal areas: Immigration
3. No Rules of Professional Conduct are **waived** as none were requested.
4. Melendez Legal shall conform to the Low Innovation reporting requirements imposed by the Innovation Office.
5. Melendez Legal shall prominently display the following disclosure requirements:
 - a. Innovation Office Badge
 - b. Nonlawyer ownership disclosure
6. This authorization is granted for the duration of the existence of the Sandbox, or until exit and permanent licensure at the discretion of the Court.
7. All managers and owners are hereby ordered to:
 - a. Act in good faith to further a client's best interests.
 - b. Not allow economic or other conflicts of interests to adversely affect the legal services rendered to a client.
 - c. Ensure that legal services are delivered with reasonable diligence and promptness.
 - d. Not reveal confidential information pertaining to the representation of a client without the client's consent or as allowed or required by law.
 - e. Not engage in or allow any activity that misleads or attempts to mislead a client, a court, or others.
 - f. Not take any action or engage in activity that interferes with the professional independence of lawyers or others authorized to provide legal services.
 - g. Develop systems and processes within the entity applicant to ensure that each of the above duties are met and satisfied.
 - h. Complete a one-hour ethics training approved by the LSI Committee that explains these obligations.
8. Authorization is subject to Melendez Legal's compliance with the conditions and requirements set forth in the Innovation Office Manual and the Innovation Office Recommendation to the Court and to a verification by the Innovation Office that the entity's services are not causing material harm to consumers.
9. This authorization does not relieve Melendez Legal, its employees, or any associated lawyer from compliance with applicable state and federal laws and any rules of another state or other governing body. Melendez Legal is responsible for assuring that it is in compliance with the laws and rules of any other affected jurisdiction.

If Melendez Legal wishes to alter these conditions or requirements, it must submit any such change to the Innovation Office for further assessment. The Innovation Office will assess the proposed change and may permit the change if it deems the change does not materially increase the risks to consumers. If the Innovation Office finds a material increase in risk, then it will present the issue to the Court for further consideration.

DATED this 10 day of April, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. B. Durrant', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Matthew B. Durrant
Chief Justice