



OREGON LAW COMMISSION

Meeting Date: August 8, 2025 (10 am)
Location: Zoom
Commissioners: Valerie Sasaki, Justice Rebecca Duncan, Chief Judge Erin Lagesen, Senior Judge Mary Mertens James, Cody Hoesly, Representative Kim Wallan, Professor Kristen Bell, Dean Jeffrey Dobbins, Eva Kripalani
Absent: Christa Obold Eshleman, Dean Sandy Patrick, Representative Jason Kropf, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Benjamin Gutman, John DiLorenzo
Staff: Amy Zubko, Cara Goldfarb, Gabriel Hanson
Guests: Dexter Johnson (Legislative Counsel), Judge Greg Gill (Eugene Municipal Court), Monte Ludington (ODAA), Susan Gary (University of Oregon School of Law), Avery Pickard (OSB)

1. Welcome

Valerie Sasaki opened the meeting with a roll call of the Commissioners and the opportunity for guests to introduce themselves. Summer research assistants Cara Goldfarb and Gabriel Hanson introduced themselves.

2. Commission Membership

Amy Zubko updated the Commission on changes to the membership. Dean Sandy Patrick has taken on the role previously held by Dean John Perry and will now be representing Lewis and Clark Law School on the Commission. Lisa Udland will be leaving the Oregon Department of Justice and Benjamin Gutman will be the Attorney General's designee on the Commission. Eva Kripalani, the Governor's new appointee, introduced herself to the Commission and shared a bit of her background.

3. Minutes

January 10, 2025 – Cody Hoesly moved and Jeffery Dobbins seconded the adoption of the minutes. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

April 18, 2025 – Valerie Sasaki shared that because there was no quorum at the April 18, 2025 meeting the minutes for this meeting were informational.

4. Proposed Projects

The Commission discussed the Partition of Heirs Property proposal, workgroup members and the chair and reporter, Commissioner Sasaki and former Commissioner Susan Gary respectively. Commissioner Sasaki shared that this was a relatively short bill and the goal was to complete the project in time for the 2027 legislative session.

Commissioner Sasaki moved and Codey Hoesly seconded the creation of a workgroup. The vote was unanimous.

Municipal and Justice Court – This proposal stems from the existing workgroup that just wrapped up, HB 2460. Judge Mary Merten James will be the chair of the workgroup. Ms. Zubko shared that the proposal originally included topics that were identified by the previous workgroup as areas of interest and had been expanded during the Program Committee on July 25, 2025 to include a look at oversight of municipal judges and municipal courts in the City of Portland.

The Commission discussed the scope of the project, and there was an indication that a set of parameters should be established for the issues this workgroup would address. There was additionally a question of whether this was needed, as workgroups aren't expected to expand from the problems identified at the time it was convened. However, this led to some discussion of topics related to the work done for HB 2460, such as the JD requirement for municipal court judges.

Commissioner Sasaki moved and Codey Hoesly seconded the creation of workgroup to address the next iteration of the Municipal and Justice Court project. The vote was unanimous.

5. 2023 - 2025 Biennial Report

Ms. Zubko shared that historically the Commission has released a biennial report which includes background on the Commission, the work done during the Commission, and information on any bills passed and reports completed. She reminded the Commission that a draft of the report was shared during the January 2025 meeting. The report was updated with final versions of the Oregon Law Commission reports for HB 2460 and SB 164. Commissioner Sasaki moved and Cody Hoesly seconded the adoption of the 2023 – 2025 report and the report was adopted unanimously. Commissioner Sasaki directed Ms. Zubko to work with Judiciary Staff to determine the best way to submit the report to the legislature.

6. Financials

State Funding: Ms. Zubko shared that the Commission had received current service level (CSL) funding for the 2025 – 2027 biennium. The Commission did not receive funding through POP 127.

FY 2026 Commission Budget. Ms. Zubko shared the FY 2026 budget that was developed in the Spring of 2025. This information was originally shared for the April 18, 2025 budget and was submitted to the University of Oregon prior to this meeting. Budgeting for FY 2026 was based on receiving CSL state funding.

Ms. Zubko shared that a wrap-up of the FY 2025 from the University of Oregon would be available at the November Oregon Law Commission budget.

7. 2025 Legislative Session Round-up a. Legislative Update HB 2460 – Justice Duncan and Ms. Zubko provided a brief overview of the legislative process and expressed their appreciation to the workgroup members and Legislative Counsel for their support of the project. SB 164 – Commissioner Sasaki provided an overview of SB 164, the LLC Act, which did not pass in the 2025 legislative session. Discussion regarding why pointed to the bills' fiscal impact report was identified and the challenge of legislation with a fiscal impact to pass the Ways and Means Committee. The proposal is intended to go forward again in either the 2026 or 2027 legislative session. Conversation further included when a draft would need to be obtained from the Office of Legislative Counsel and what the fiscal impact report. In addition, Ms. Zubko and Commissioner Sasaki provided a brief update on Senate Bill 15 and Rep. Kropf's request that the Commission look into the Simple Estate Affidavit process.
8. Active Projects Electronic Wills Update. Lane Shetterly was unable to attend the meeting this morning and asked Ms. Zubko to provide a brief update. The work group has met twice and will meet again on August 22, 2025 over Zoom. The group is currently working through an Oregon specific version of the Uniform Electronic Wills Act drafted by Legislative Counsel drafter, Lori Anne Sills. i.
9. Workplan Ms. Zubko shared the workplan for July 2025 – December 2025. Commissioner Sasaki shared that included in this workplan was the creation of an administrative or governance subcommittee to look at various issues that affect the Commission as a whole. Topics include: a succession plan for commissioners, OLC archives, bylaw review, program committee review, workgroup creation, and other issues. Commissioner Sasaki invited those that were interested to contact her for more information and let Commissioners know that she might be reaching out to folks as well. Commissioner Kripalani volunteered to participate in this workgroup.
10. For the Good of the Order Ms. Zubko shared that the November meeting would involve scheduling for a potential December Program Committee meeting and scheduling for 2026.