



OREGON LAW COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, June 5, 2026 (10 am)
Location: Zoom
Chair Valerie Sasaki
Commissioners: Valerie Sasaki, Benjamin Gutman, Representative Kim Wallan, Judge Mary James, Justice Rebecca Duncan, Dean Sandy Patrick, Professor Kristen Bell, Chief Judge Erin Lagesen, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Eva Kripalani, Representative Willy Chotzen
Unable to Attend: Cody Hoesly, Christa Obold Eshleman, Dean Jeffrey Dobbins, Representative Jason Kropf, John DiLorenzo
Staff: Amy Zubko, Jared Rumsey, Gracie Schweitzer, Nora Robison
Guests: Dexter Johnson (LC), Channa Newell (OJD), Derek Sangston (OBI), Lane Shetterly (E-wills)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sasaki opened the meeting and led introductions of the Commissioners, guests, and the Commission's summer legal research aides: Nora Robison, Gracie Schweitzer and Jared Rumsey. and Chair Sasaki thanked them for their work with the Commission.

2. Minutes

Chair Sasaki asked whether there were any edits or questions about the March meeting minutes, and none were raised. Judge James made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Gutman. The minutes were approved without opposition.

3. Executive Session

The Commission adjusted the agenda to move the executive session before the financial discussion. Amy Zubko placed the Commissioners into a Zoom breakout room for the executive session roughly five and a half minutes into the meeting. The Commission reconvened in the main Zoom meeting approximately forty-four minutes into the meeting.

4. Financials

Director Compensation. Chair Sasaki stated that the Commission had a proposal to increase the Director's salary to \$150,000 effective July 1, 2026, and to \$165,000

effective July 1, 2027, with benefits in both cases. She shared that the raises are in recognition of the increased scope and scale of the position. Judge James moved approval of the Director compensation proposal, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gutman, and the motion passed without opposition.

2027-2029 Budget. Amy Zubko provided an update on preparation of the Commission's proposed 2027-2029 budget. Ms. Zubko explained that the Commission's budget is a line item in the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) budget and that the proposed current service level increase for the 2027-2029 biennium was 9.3%, bringing the proposed biennial amount to \$426,036. Ms. Zubko stated that the Commission expected that amount to be included in the Oregon Judicial Department draft budget bill and discussed during the 2027 legislative session.

Legal Fellow Policy Option Package. Ms. Zubko discussed a policy option package (POP) for additional funding for a limited-duration, postgraduate legal fellow position. She shared that the Commission had reserve funds that could support a one-year pilot and that the requested amount was approximately \$220,000 for the biennium. In response to a question, Ms. Zubko stated that the position was expected to pay approximately \$65,000 per year, plus benefits. Chair Sasaki made a motion to adopt the POP and submit to the Oregon Judicial Department for consideration by the Oregon Legislature. The motion was seconded by Judge James and the motion passed without opposition.

Director Compensation Policy Option Package. The Commission considered a separate policy option package to cover the increased cost of the Director's salary and benefits. Commissioner Gutman made a motion to submit a POP to increase the director's compensation which was seconded by Sen. Floyd Prozanski. The motion passed without opposition.

10 Percent Reduction Plan. Ms. Zubko discussed a 10% reduction plan and stated that the Commission would propose holding the part-time administrative position vacant to meet the reduction, if necessary. Justice Duncan asked whether there was a limit on how long the position could remain vacant before the Commission would lose the funding for the position, and Ms. Zubko stated that she would follow up with the Commission. Commissioner Gutman made a motion to adopt the 10% reduction plan, if needed, and Judge James seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

5. Administration/Governance Update

Commissioner Job Description. Chair Sasaki explained that a small group of commissioners, former commissioners, and other interested persons had been discussing updates to the Commission's policies and procedures. Chair Sasaki stated

that a proposed Commissioner job description had been circulated and explained that it reflected existing responsibilities and statutory provisions concerning attendance and participation. Commissioner Kripalani moved to approve the job description and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gutman. The motion passed without opposition.

Program Committee Policies and Procedures. Ms. Zubko reported that the Administration and Governance subcommittee had reviewed the Commission's Policies and Procedures with a focus on the Program Committee. Mark Comstock, who was unable to attend the Commission meeting, was unable to attend the meeting, but had taken on the responsibility of updating the policies and procedures. Ms. Zubko explained that the proposed revisions:

- Identified the Vice Chair as the default Program Committee Chair,
- Formalized Program Committee membership,
- Changed the proposal submission deadline to no later than 60 days before a Program Committee meeting,
- Updated public records references, and
- Changed the Commission's parliamentary authority from Mason's Manual to Robert's Rules of Order.

Senator Prozanski stated that Robert's Rules of Order is more consistent with the type of work the Commission does.

Chief Judge Lagesen suggested clarifying the Program Committee membership language to state that the Committee would include five members, at least three of whom would be current commissioners. Judge James made a motion to adopt the updated language with Chief Judge Lagesen's clarification. Dean Patrick seconded to adopt the Program Committee policies and procedures with that adjustment. The motion passed without opposition.

Chair and Vice Chair Election. Ms. Zubko reminded the Commission that, under the policies and procedures, the Commission is expected to elect a Chair and a Vice Chair at the first meeting after July 1 of an even-numbered year. Ms. Zubko invited commissioners interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair to contact her before the September meeting. Chair Sasaki stated that she was willing to continue serving as Chair but would also welcome interest from other commissioners.

6. Work Group Updates

Electronic Wills Work Group. Lane Shetterly reported that the E-Wills Work Group was going well and had spent several meetings learning about the technology and mechanics involved in electronic wills. Mr. Shetterly stated that the work group had begun reviewing the language of the Uniform Act and that he expected the work

group to present an act to the Commission by the end of the year, hopefully in time for introduction in the 2027 legislative session. Mr. Shetterly noted that the principal issue may be unfamiliarity with electronic wills and questions about safety, security, fraud, and abuse, rather than difficulty with the statutory drafting itself. Mr. Shetterly highlighted the importance of addressing this inevitable topic before it became an issue in an advancing technological world.

Municipal and Justice Courts Work Group. Judge James reported that the Municipal and Justice Courts Work Group had been meeting since November 2025 and had held both full work group sessions and small group sessions. Judge James stated that the work group had reached consensus on two issues requiring statutory updates:

- Creating a process for waiver of undertakings and
- Removing the 50-mile limitation on justice courts becoming courts of record.

Judge James also stated that the work group continued to discuss whether violations should be appealed under ORS chapter 19 or ORS chapter 138, where records of abolished local courts should reside, whether certain municipal-court appeals should be limited, and issues involving transfers between local courts and circuit courts. Judge James stated that the work group was aware of legislative timing and intended to seek as much closure as possible on the remaining issues.

Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act Work Group. Chair Sasaki reported that the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act Work Group had continued discussing partition actions, notice, and approaches in other states. Chair Sasaki stated that she expected the work group to bring forward a bill proposal for the next session and thanked Robert Magher in Legislative Counsel for his work. Chair Sasaki explained that the work group had focused on Section 7, which addresses how a proceeding would move through the courts, and that a flowchart would be incorporated into the bill report.

LLC Act Work Group. Chair Sasaki reported that the LLC Act Work Group remained a proposal for reintroduction and that Ms. Zubko had been having discussions with the Secretary of State about system issues. Chair Sasaki stated that the Commission had asked the Secretary of State for a list of issues giving rise to the fiscal impact statement and was awaiting information. Chair Sasaki stated that the bill was expected to be reintroduced in the next session.

Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group. Ms. Zubko reported that the Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group would hold its first meeting on June 30 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Zubko stated that she had reached out to potential participants, that Lori Anne Sills would serve as the Legislative Counsel drafter, and that the work group was not aiming for a 2027 proposal.

7. Projects under Discussion

Public Meetings. Ms. Zubko reported that the public meetings project previously discussed by the Commission would not be submitted as a Commission proposal. Representative Wallan noted that a legislative work group on the topic was meeting the following week.

Juvenile Law. Ms. Zubko reported that the Commission had been approached about an issue involving ORS chapters 418 and 419B related to child abuse and child welfare. Ms. Zubko stated that she had discussed the issue with Judge Lagesen and Christa Obold Eshleman and had requested more information, but that no proposal had been received.

8. Workplan

Ms. Zubko stated that the workplan circulated to the Commission runs through December 2026. Ms. Zubko explained that the Commission's priority is preparing four bills for the 2027 legislative session, and where possible, having those bills pre-session filed. Ms. Zubko stated that the Commission was exploring a social event in Salem during either the September or December Legislative Days that could coincide with an informational legislative hearing about Commission proposals.

9. Updated November/December 2026 Schedule

Ms. Zubko reported that the December Full Commission meeting would be moved to November 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. because of the Legislative Days schedule and related calendar issues. Ms. Zubko stated that the proposed Program Committee meeting date was December 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., after Legislative Days. Ms. Zubko also noted that the September Full Commission meeting remained on the calendar and that the 2027 meeting dates would be discussed at the September meeting.

10. For the Good of the Order

Chair Sasaki asked whether there was anything further for the good of the order, and no additional items were raised. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the motion passed without opposition. Chair Sasaki adjourned the meeting.