



OREGON LAW COMMISSION

Meeting Date: January 10, 2025 (10 am)

Location: Zoom

Chair: Valerie Sasaki

Commissioners Present:

Valerie Sasaki, Justice Rebecca Duncan, Chief Judge Erin Lagesen, Senior Judge Mary Mertens James, Cody Hoesly, Christa Obold Eshleman, Representative Kim Wallan, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Professor Kristen Bell, John DiLorenzo, Lisa Udland

Commissioners Absent:

Dean John Parry, Representative Jason Kropf, Dean Jeffrey Dobbins, P.K. Runkles-Pearson

Staff: Amy Zubko, Thomas Grossman

Guests: Dexter Johnson, Kimberly McCullough, Kris Kolta

1. Welcome

Valerie Sasaki welcomed the Commissioners and Guests to the meeting and provided a brief overview, namely that the January meeting was to address administrative and Commission issues with brief updates on the two legislative concepts.

2. Minutes

The minutes for the December 5, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. Cody Hoesly moved to adopt the minutes and Judge Mary Merten James seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. 2025 Legislative Session

Amy Zubko provided a brief overview of her schedule and discussed coverage while she was out on leave. Commissioner Sasaki will be the primary contact for Commission issues, the OLC budget request, and questions that arise regarding LC 266/SB 164. Christa Obold Eshleman and Justice Rebecca Duncan will be the contacts for LC 156/HB 2460. Ms. Zubko will be out on leave beginning Feb 27th and is expected to return on March 13, 2025.

Presentation about the Oregon Law Commission/Report

Commissioner Sasaki provided an overview of the Oregon Law Commission biennial report. The Commission discussed the uses of the report including materials for the legislative session, information about the Commission and policies that the Commission has adopted or followed in the past. Of particular interest was the memo on independence of the workgroup members and the memo on mid-session amendments.

Ms. Zubko shared her intent to include language from the memo on the independence of workgroup members in the appointment letter for new workgroup members when a workgroup is created.

Managing Mid-Session Amendments to Law Commission recommended bills:

Commissioner Sasaki provided a brief overview of the historical process that the Oregon Law Commission used to manage mid-session amendments to Oregon Law Commission recommended bills and recommended that the Commission re-adopt the existing process for the 2025 Legislative Session. Commissioner Hoesly moved and Commissioner Obold Eshleman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Process: Commissioner Obold Eshleman provided an overview and update on LC 156/HB 2460. Senator Floyd Prozanski shared his interest and background in the municipal court system and shared that he would be reviewing the bill with Kris Kolta, LPRO Judiciary Analyst and other stakeholders.

Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act: Commissioner Sasaki and Commissioner Hoesly provided an overview and update on the discussions with the Uniform Law Commission regarding Section 12. John DiLorenzo requested an update on concerns raised about Senate Bill 909 (2023) and whether they had been addressed in LC 266/SB 164 and was informed that they had been addressed and, in the case of Section 12, were still being discussed.

4. Electronic Wills Workgroup

Commissioner Sasaki provided an update on the Electronic Wills workgroup proposal adopted by the Program Committee at the December 5th meeting including an update on the timeline and membership. Of note, the membership includes stakeholders from a wide variety of perspectives on the concept. Commissioner Merten James moved for the adoption of the project and the creation of an Electronic Wills workgroup and Commissioner Hoesly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Financials

Ms. Zubko shared the most recent financial statement with the Commission (November 2024) and provided background regarding the Commission's budgeting process and the University of Oregon's budgeting process. The next step for the Commission is to work with the UO Law School Accounting department to integrate the two systems.

6. Workplan

Ms. Zubko shared the January - March 2025 workplan. The focus for the first three months of 2025 is the Legislative Session with a quiet period in March while Ms. Zubko is out on leave.

In addition, Ms. Zubko shared that an OLC Legislative Reception would be held on April 16th in Salem. She's reached out to Dean Dobbins to see if the space in the Oregon Civil Justice Center would be available.

7. Commission Membership

Commissioner Sasaki shared the news that two Commissioners will be stepping down. She expressed her thanks to Dean John Parry at Lewis and Clark and PK Runkles-Pearson, the Governor's appointee to the Commission. Commissioner Parry will be staying through the end of June. We've started the process to identify their replacements.

Of note, Commissioner Runkles-Pearson was both the Vice Chair of the Commission and had volunteered to chair the Partition of Heirs property workgroup. With her decision to step down from the Commission the Commission will need to identify a new Vice Chair and chair for the workgroup.

8. For the Good of the Order

Commissioner Sasaki shared that the next meeting is April 18, 2025 at 10 am over Zoom. Commissioner Hoesly moved to adjourn the meeting and Kristen Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.