



OREGON LAW COMMISSION

Meeting Date: November 21, 2025
Location: Zoom
Chair: Valerie Sasaki
Members: Justice Rebecca Duncan, Chief Judge Erin Lagesen, Senior Judge Mary Mertens James, Cody Hoesly, Christa Obold Eshleman, Dean Sandy Patrick, Representative Will Chotzen, Representative Jason Kropf, Representative Kim Wallan, Senator Floyd Prozanski, John DiLorenzo, Eva Kriplinai, Professor Kristen Bell, Dean Jeffrey Dobbins, Benjamin Gutman
Staff: Amy Zubko, Cara Goldfarb, Gabriel Hanson
Re: 2025 – 2027 Active Projects Overview

Background

The Oregon Law Commission was created in 1997 by the Legislative Assembly to conduct a continuous program of law revision, reform, and improvement. (ORS 173.315) The Commission serves the citizens of Oregon by assisting the legislature, executive agencies, and judiciary by keeping the law up to date through proposed law reform bills, administrative rules, and written policy analysis. In addition, the Commission proposes new substantive and procedural provisions to improve and fill gaps in Oregon law. The Commission has four active work groups moving towards proposed legislation for the 2027 Legislative Session.

Updates

Electronic Will Act Work Group

The Commission's Electronic Will work group is chaired by Lane Shetterly with Eric Foster acting as the Reporter. Lori Anne Sills from the Office of Legislative Counsel is the drafter for the work group. Amy Zubko and Gabriel Hanson are providing staff support from the Commission.

The work group roster can be found on the Commission's website (<https://law-olc.uoregon.edu/Electronic%20Wills%20Workgroup>) and includes private practitioners, representatives from the Oregon State Bar Estate Planning and Elder Law sections, Oregon Judicial Department, Oregon Secretary of State, Oregon Department of Justice, Willamette University School of Law, and other stakeholders.

In September Judge Diana Kiesel from Pierce County Superior Court in Washington State and Professor Susan Gary, the Uniform Law Commission's Reporter for the Uniform Electronic Wills Act, joined the work group to provide feedback and answer questions about the Uniform Act.

At the next meeting on November 14th representatives from Proof and Trust & Will will join the work group to discuss the remote notarization process and online electronic wills.

Limited Liability Company Act Update

The Commission's LLC Act work group was chaired by John DiLorenzo and vice-chaired by Valerie Sasaki. Dexter Johnson from the Office of Legislative Counsel is the drafter for this project. Amy Zubko and Cara Goldfarb are staffing this project. The bill was introduced during the 2023 and 2025 Legislative Sessions. During the 2025 Legislative Session, the bill moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with a fiscal impact statement (FIS) from the Oregon Secretary of State's office. The bill was in committee upon adjournment.

On November 3rd, a small group of work group members and commissioners met to discuss the Act and next steps. The group is interested in exploring whether it would be possible to modify the Act in a way that would remove the fiscal impact statement. The group reached out to the Oregon Secretary of State's office with a request to discuss in additional detail the fiscal impact statement and what modifications could potentially be made to mitigate the funding needs.

Municipal and Justice Court Work Group

The Commission's Municipal and Justice Court Work Group was approved by the full Commission at the August 8, 2025 Commission meeting. Judge Mary Mertens James is chairing the work group. Jessica Minifie from the Office of Legislative Counsel is the drafter for the work group. Amy Zubko and Cara Goldfarb are staffing this work group.

The work group roster can be found on the Commission's website (<https://law-olc.uoregon.edu/MunicipalandJusticeCourts25-27#overlay-context=projects>) and includes private practitioners, municipal and justice court judges, representatives from the League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties, the Oregon District Attorneys Association, the Oregon Judicial Department, the Oregon Law Center, the Oregon State Bar, and other interested stakeholders.

The work group met for the first time on October 23, 2025 over Zoom and is scheduled to meet again on November 19, 2025 at noon over Zoom. The work group will meet on a monthly basis.

Partition of Heirs Property Work Group

The Commission's Partition of Heirs Property Act work group was approved by the full Commission at the August 8, 2025 Commission meeting. Valerie Sasaki is chairing the work group and Susan Gary is acting as the Reporter. Robert Mauger from the Office of Legislative Counsel is the drafter for the work group. Amy Zubko and Gabriel Hanson are staffing the work group.

The work group roster can be found on the Commission's website (<https://law-olc.uoregon.edu/PartitionHeirsProperty>) and includes private practitioners, representatives from the OSB Debtor Creditor Section and Elder Law Section, title insurance companies, County Clerks, The Urban League, Oregon Association of Realtors, the University of Oregon School of Law, Willamette University School of Law, and the Oregon Judicial Department.

The work group met for the first time on October 17, 2025 and is scheduled to meet on November 13, 2025 at noon over Zoom. The work group will meet on a monthly basis.