

Oregon Law Commission Business Plan

Rev. Date: March 26, 2025

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Statutory Authority

ORS 173.315 (1) “The Oregon Law Commission is established to conduct a continuous substantive law revision program as described in ORS 173.338 (Law revision program).”

ORS 173.338 “The law revision program conducted by the Oregon Law Commission may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Review of the common law and statutes of the state, and current judicial decisions, for the purpose of discovering defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (b) Consideration of changes in the law recommended by the American Law Institute, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, any bar association or other learned bodies.
- (c) Consideration of suggestions from judges, justices, public officials, lawyers and the public generally as to defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (d) Recommendation for changes in the law that the commission considers necessary to modify or eliminate antiquated and inequitable rules of law and to bring the law of Oregon into harmony with modern conditions.
- (e) Recommendation for the express repeal of statutes repealed by implication or held unconstitutional by state and federal courts.

(2) The commission shall study any topic that the Legislative Assembly, by law or concurrent resolution, refers to the commission. [1997 c.661 §3; 2009 c.114 §6]”

FY 2025 Goal setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)

Topic		Success Looks Like
1. Law Improvement (ORS 173.338 (a), (b))		Become the pre-eminent law improvement vehicle in Oregon
a. Completion of major existing law improvement projects		HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Courts Appeals Project: SB 164 - RULLCA Project:
b. Review approved law improvement projects		Partition of Heirs Property, eWills, Corporations Act, Municipal and Justice Court V2.0.
c. Develop Pipeline of law improvement projects		Work to introduce 2-3 law improvement projects in each long legislative session.
2. Policy Questions (ORS 173.338 (c), (d))		Become a multi-disciplinary forum for thought leadership in Oregon
a. Educate judges, justices, public officials, lawyers, and public on role of OLC		Continue updates of the OLC Website; outreach to legislators; creation of symposium. Submit biennial report.
b. Develop policy analysis model building on OLC process		Continue to build policy panels to create bench of knowledge in different practice areas.
c. Solicit policy questions		Meet with alumni members, practitioners, and stakeholders.
3. Entity Governance:		Restore mechanisms for effective governance and be effective stewards of the Oregon Law Commission
a. Staff development		Hire 1-2 summer clerks; hire 1-2 law clerks/fellows part-time during academic year; hire post-graduate legal fellow to assist with workgroups.
b. Board development		Continue to leverage existing and former Commissioner expertise; Refine Program Committee needs and role
c. Financial Accountability		Develop effective financial statements; discuss financial statements at Commission meetings; board review and approval of budget proposals and support for OJD budget process.
d. UO Partnership		Outreach to UO Law School administration, faculty, and students to increase understanding of OLC and

		opportunities to collaborate on workgroups and student engagement.
e. Develop a 5-year plan for the OLC		Identify stakeholders; consider statutory expectations.

2025 – Q4 (April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025) Goal Setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)

Important Dates in Q4:

Meeting Dates:	Commission Meeting Dates: August 2025 Program Committee Meeting Dates: Late July/Early August 2025
Goal Check in Dates:	☐ May 1, 2025 ☐ June 1, 2025 ☐ July 1, 2025
Other Important Dates (including planned PTO):	Important UO Dates: First Chamber Deadline (April 9), Second Chamber Deadline (May 23), Target Since Die (June 18), Constitutional Sine Die (June 29) Spring and Summer Holidays: Memorial Day (May 26), Juneteenth (June 19). Amy Zubko PTO: March 27 – April 13, May 16)

Q4 Goals

1. Q4 Law Improvement Goals:		HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Continue legislative outreach on HB 2460 SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Continue legislative outreach on SB 164 Electronic Wills: Hold first meetings for electronic wills. Partition of Heirs Property: Identify workgroup members for Partition of Heirs Property and identify date for first workgroup meeting.
2. Q4 Policy Improvement Goals:		Meet with Commission alumni; establish practice area panels
3. Q4 Governance Goals		Finalize FY 2026 budget, Continue legislative outreach on POP 127 and Oregon Law Commission CSL budget.

Q4 Law Improvement Goals

In April, we will:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Outreach regarding HB 2460 in the Senate. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Outreach regarding SB 164 in W&Ms. • Partition of Heirs Property: Outreach for workgroup membership, develop workplan and timeline for project. • eWills: Hold first meeting of workgroup.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Staff on leave for the first half of the month. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Staff on leave for the first half of the month. • Partition of Heirs Property: Staff on leave for the first half of the month. • eWills: Staff on leave for the first half of the month.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Reach out to folks in March. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Reach out to folks in March. • Partition of Heirs Property: Reach out in March. • eWills: Set schedule in March for late April meeting.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Time in Salem. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Time in Salem. • Partition of Heirs Property: Time. • eWills: Time.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Public Hearing and Work Session Scheduled. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Met with legislators and stakeholders.

	• Partition of Heirs Property: Identify workgroup members. • eWills: Host a meeting in April.

In May, we will:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Second chamber public hearing and work session. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Assigned to a subcommittee. • Partition of Heirs Property: Outreach to potential members of the workgroup. • eWills: Hold a meeting.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Bill is not scheduled. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: • Partition of Heirs Property: Time. • eWills: Time. Staff resources.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Outreach to members and stakeholders. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Outreach and education. • Partition of Heirs Property: Create list of potential members in March and April. • eWills: Communication.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Communication and outreach. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Communication and Outreach • Partition of Heirs Property: Communication and Outreach. • eWills: Time.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Public hearing and work session held. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Assigned to a subcommittee

	• Partition of Heirs Property: Scheduled first meeting. • eWills: Hold a meeting
In June, I will:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Floor vote. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Floor vote. • Partition of Heirs Property: Finalize materials for first meeting. • eWills: Hold a meeting.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Bill does move out of second chamber. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Lack of support/funding for bill. • Partition of Heirs Property: End of Session requirements take up additional time. • eWills: End of Session requirements take up additional time.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Outreach and communication. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Outreach and communication. • Partition of Heirs Property: Work with Chairs and LC. • eWills: Work with Chairs and LC.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Time. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Time in Salem. • Partition of Heirs Property: • eWills:
We will know we've met this goal if:	• HB 2460 - Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Workgroup: Successful passage of the bill. • SB 164 - RULLCA Workgroup: Bill is passed • Partition of Heirs Property: Schedule a meeting.

	• eWills: Hold meeting.
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Q4 Policy Goals

In April, we will:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: On Hold • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: On Hold
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: On Hold • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: On Hold
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: On Hold • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: On Hold
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: On Hold • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: On Hold
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: On Hold • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: On Hold
In May, we will:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Review previous list of previous projects that did not pass and contact stakeholders. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Outreach to stakeholders and potential chairs who have expressed interest in submitting proposals to the Commission for consideration.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Staff time. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: If current projects take up stakeholder bandwidth.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Focus on recent projects. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Reach out early.

Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Time. Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Time.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Identify projects that may be of interest to the Program Committee/Commission. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Identify projects for the Summer Program Committee meeting.

In June, I will:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Create a database of projects that may be of interest. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Work with stakeholders to draft project proposals.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Time, Legislative responsibilities. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Lack of time. Legislative responsibilities.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Work with fellow and summer students. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Work with fellow and summer students.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: Access to OLIS, Access to OLC Reports • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Time to meet with stakeholders.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Meet with Commission alumni or stakeholders: We've created a list of projects to take a second look at. • Prepare for Program Committee meeting: Materials drafted for Summer Program Committee meeting.

Q4 Governance Goals

In April, we will:	• Summer staff: Close summer staff posting and set up interviews.
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	• Legal Fellow: Submit Legal Fellow posting to UO: • Effective financial statements: Complete UO budget process and submit to UO. Share with Commission.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer staff: Posting is not made in mid-March. • Legal Fellow: Posting needs to be modified because of budget. • Effective financial statements: Unexpected budgetary tweaks.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer staff: Finalize materials in March. • Legal Fellow: Work with UO HR • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer staff: Zoom, time. • Legal Fellow: Feedback from UO. • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer staff: Set-up and hold interviews. • Legal Fellow: We receive feedback from UO. • Program Committee needs and role: • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget. Respond to requests for information as necessary.
In May, we will:	• Summer Staff: Wrap up interview process and make offers. • Legal Fellow: Outreach to students • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and

	budget. Respond to requests for information as necessary.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer Staff: Time, not enough applicants. • Legal Fellow: UO's process takes additional time. • Effective financial statements: Not having the necessary information. Lack of understanding of UO accounting and budgeting processes.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer Staff: Dedicated days/times for interviews. • Legal Fellow: Get the paperwork in earlier. Work with UO HR to answer questions quickly. • Effective financial statements: Work with UO Law Accounting folks to understand process.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer Staff: HR Support for questions that come up. Outreach to IT to answer hardware questions. • Legal Fellow: Communication with UO HR • Effective financial statements: Regular financial statements. Feedback from UO.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer Staff: Offer accepted. • Legal Fellow: Job posting finalized. • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget. Respond to requests for information as necessary.
In June, I will:	• Summer Staff: Summer staff begin with the resources they need. • Legal Fellow: Job posted. • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget. Respond to requests for information as necessary.

What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer Staff: Not having IT and HR finalized. • Legal Fellow: UO HR not ready to post. • Effective financial statements: Continue to track spending and budget. Respond to requests for information as necessary.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer Staff: Work with IT, UO Admin, and PDX Portland folks. • Legal Fellow: Communicate early and often. • Effective financial statements: Work with UO Accounting to identify any end of the fiscal year questions.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer Staff: Ability to access electronic resources. Place to meet in person. UO HR requirements completed. • Legal Fellow: Ability to post position. • Effective financial statements: Current budget and accounting information.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer Staff: Summer staff begins with the necessary resources and HR requirements are met. • Legal Fellow: Position posted. • Effective financial statements: FY2025 wrapped up as much as possible on June 30th.