



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project Implementation Committee

Meeting Summary

November 18, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#	Topic
1.	<p>Welcome and Updates</p> <p>Judge Rodenberg met with the Board of Law Examiners. The meeting feedback was encouraging. They seemed to understand the supervision role and acknowledged there is some confusion since there is not a clear definition of what skills or experience constitute a paralegal or paraprofessional designation.</p> <p>Justice Thissen met with the MSBA Family Law Section. The group was mostly supportive of the pilot project. Some concerns raised included, how the LPRB will interpret supervision, will insurance cover the activity, paralegal qualifications, interplay with this project and the proposed changes to the ADA rules re: principled attorney being present. Small practitioners commented that their cost margins are already tight and they cannot afford to hire a paralegal. Additional discussion will occur.</p> <p>The committee continued to discuss the viability of family law and housing law, and market approach options and noted that perhaps the pilot could address both family and housing needs.</p>
2.	<p>Focus Group Update</p> <p>The committee agreed to move ahead with scheduling for the focus group sessions and recommended that the facilitators keep the focus of the Order in mind so that the scope is not inadvertently extended. Make sure to include paralegals at the focus groups, try for diversity of geographic representation and diversity of area of law experience.</p>
3.	<p>Credentialed Paralegal Information Review</p> <p>The committee continued to discuss paralegal qualifications. Members noted that by mid-2020 an ethics board will be established by the MPA that oversee paralegal ethics for those who are certified.</p>
4.	<p>Pilot Structure and Criteria Brainstorming Continued</p> <p>Suggestions to raise some of the committee's questions about structure with the focus group participants. Ask how they would measure their own success in the program.</p> <p>The committee also discussed how the pilot project will be evaluated and measured. It is hard to understand exactly how or what would be measured for family law cases. Options mentioned included surveying and talking to attorneys, clients, and paralegals, possibly court staff, SRL programs, and judges as well. Establishing the goals for the pilot project is critical for determining what and how to evaluate the success of the project(s).</p>



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Member Roster & Attendance

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Justice Paul Thissen | Co-Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Judge John Rodenberg | Co-Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thomas Nelson | MSBA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sally Dahlquist | Inver Hills Community College |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maren Schroeder | Rochester, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tiffany Doherty-Schooler | Duluth, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pamela Wandzel | Minneapolis, MN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Christopher O. Petersen | Minneapolis, MN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bridget Gernander | State Court Administrators Office |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Liz Reppe | State Law Library |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Guests: | |
| | ▪ Ellen Bendewald, SCAO | |
| | ▪ Melissa Kantola, SCAO | |
| | ▪ Sarah Doege, COA | |
| | ▪ Madeline Baskfield, COA | |