



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project Implementation Committee

Meeting Summary

December 16, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#	Topic
1.	<p>Welcome and Updates</p> <p>The co-chairs met on Thursday, December 12, 2019 with representatives from the court, legal aid, and a social services agency to discuss ideas for paralegal participation in a family law simplification project and housing court in the St. Cloud area. All are interested in a potential project in both the housing and family law areas. Adequate funding is critical.</p> <p>The co-chairs also talked with VLN about needs around real estate paralegal assistance. The topics are more like real estate cases and just two to three cases each year actually go on to legal representation. More would probably go forward if there were lawyers to take the case. Committee members agreed to keep the idea of real estate as an area for the pilot open for future discussion.</p>
2.	<p>Focus Group Update</p> <p>An overview of the plan and the agenda was shared with the committee. There was acknowledgement that we are asking for a lot of information from a small group of people. There is curiosity around how this will go. Committee members were invited to attend.</p>
3.	<p>Review, discuss, and approve qualifications</p> <p>The discussion about qualifications continued; focused on education and what are reasonable requirements that would also encourage participation in the project. The committee also discussed an attorney vouching process where the supervising attorney would submit some kind of written attestation to the paralegal's skills and abilities. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.</p>
4.	<p>Review and discuss pilot evaluation criteria</p> <p>Continued brief discussion about evaluation criteria.</p>
5.	<p>Review and discuss Committee final report content</p> <p>A high-level outline of the final report content was shared with the committee. In general there was agreement that the content seemed to cover everything that should be presented. Committee members will be asked to review and provide feedback.</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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Christopher O. Petersen | Minneapolis, MN |
| <input checked="" 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 | |
| | ▪ Sarah Welter, SCAO | |
| | ▪ Sarah Doege, COA | |
| | ▪ Madeline Baskfield, COA | |