

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES
ZOOM MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Members present:

John Stewart, chair

Joseph Corsmeier

Santo DiGangi

Lansing Scriven

John F. Harkness, Jr.

Sarah Sullivan

Shawna Hoffman-Childress

Cesar Alvarez

Josias Dewey

Member absent:

Adriana Gonzalez

Also present:

Lori S. Holcomb, Bar Consultant

Visitors:

Vice Chief Justice Timmer, Arizona

Gary Blankenship

Michael Tanner

The meeting began at 3:00 pm with a presentation by Vice Chief Justice Timmer of the Arizona Supreme Court. She discussed Arizona's experience with the issues being studied by the Special Committee.

The committee approved the minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting and the subcommittee minutes.

The committee then heard reports from the subcommittees:

Review of RRTFB 4-5.4 Professional Independence of a Lawyer & accompanying Ethics Opinions – Josias Dewey reported that the subcommittee was coming closer to finding consensus.

Review of Pertinent Advertising Rules as found in RRTFB Chapter 4-7 – Santo DiGangi reported that the subcommittee was not addressing the rules on solicitation but was focusing on the other advertising rules.

Review of 4-7.17 relating to payment of referral to persons other than lawyers (including related rules and ethics opinions) – No report was made.

Review of Lawyer Referral services including 4-7.22 (For Profit) and Chapter 8 (Not-for-Profit) of the RRTFB and related rules and ethics opinions – No report was made.

Member and Public Engagement & Data collection and review – Sarah Sullivan reported that the subcommittee has submitted questions to be included in the bar's next economic survey. After receiving feedback from Mike Garcia, the subcommittee is refining the questions.

John Stewart informed the committee that the Advanced Florida Registered Paralegal rule proposed by a subcommittee of the Access Commission will be coming to the committee.

John Stewart reminded the committee that the subcommittees should be ready to discuss the concepts and recommendations from the subcommittees at the January 2021 meeting.

There was some general discussion of the sandbox concept. It was noted that if the committee is going to recommend a sandbox approach, the report should contain some specific recommendations or parameters. It is anticipated that the Committee's Final Report will contain specific recommendations, rule changes or both as exhibits to the report.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.