
People's Legal Aid

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Utah Supreme Court Regulatory Reform Proposal

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OVERVIEW

The state Supreme Court proposes reform of the current Rules of Professional Conduct under the Rules Governing the Professional Independence of Lawyers.

This order would establish a pilot legal regulatory sandbox and an Office of Legal Services Innovation to assist the Utah Supreme Court with respect to overseeing and regulating the practice of law by non traditional legal service providers or by traditional providers offering nontraditional legal services.

PLA IS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed changes to in person solicitation of a client will greatly benefit organizations like ours that provide services to low-income individuals who may not have the resources or knowledge of how to find help. Additionally, allowing for easier advertising will shrink the justice gap as information is more readily available.

The proposed changes to rule 5.4 we believe have the potential to decrease the price of legal services and increase access to services as lawyers partner with nonlawyers to seek economical advantages through the use of technology and modern business practices.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Unlike criminal court matters, defendants in Eviction and Debt Collection cases do not have the same rights to counsel. PLA believes that for our justice system to efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, legal representation should not be dependent on wealth and status.

We believe that housing is an essential human right that is unbalanced under current law and court procedure. This reform effort is an important first step in closing the gap between the need for, and the availability of, quality legal assistance in Utah.

