

Paraprofessional Licensing Committee

BACKGROUND. In early 2017, the Regulatory Committee of the Legal Futures Task Force formed a Paraprofessional Workgroup to “explore the licensing of paraprofessionals including Limited Legal License Technicians (LLTs), paralegals and document preparers.” In its report, the Workgroup made a number of recommendations to the OSB Board of Governors (BOG) including the appointment of a committee to develop a detailed implementation plan for licensing paraprofessionals. The OSB Board of Governors formed the Paraprofessional Licensing Implementation Committee for this purpose.

PURPOSE. The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors convened the Paraprofessional Licensing Implementation Committee to draft rules for the licensure of paraprofessionals to provide limited scope legal services. The Board also created an Advisory Group to assist the Implementation Committee by providing a more extensive feedback structure and expanded presence in affected communities.

The purpose of the Implementation Committee is to:

- Develop the regulatory framework for licensing paralegals consistent with the recommendations of the Futures Task Force Report.
- Increase access to justice
- Ensure the competence, integrity, and quality of legal services of the licensed paralegals.
- Engage stakeholders throughout this process.

Advisory members are expected to:

- Monitor the work of the Implementation Committee.
- Keep the Implementation Committee informed as to the perspectives and concerns of attorneys, the legal community and the public at large.
- Keep affiliated stakeholder groups with which they are each involved advised on the work of the Implementation Committee.
- Provide input from stakeholder groups to the Implementation Committee and respond to inquiries when appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP. The Implementation Committee is made up of 12 members, including three judges and two public members. The Advisory Group members is made up of a broad range of members, who have insight and experience as to the needs of their respective communities, that licensed paraprofessionals would serve.

MEETINGS. The Implementation Committee will meet on a monthly schedule throughout much of 2021. Small workgroups of Committee members will meet more frequently to work on specific tasks and projects to bring back to the larger committee.

Although advisory members do not vote as part of the Implementation Committee, with the approval of the Committee Chair, they are encouraged to attend Committee meetings to provide comments.