

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES COMMITTEE



Location: Conference room 230 / Zoom
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024
Time: 10:00 A.M.
 State Courts Building
 1501 West Washington Street
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

For any item listed on the agenda, the Board may vote to go into Executive Session for advice of counsel (under ACJA Sec. 1-202(C)(5)(c)) or for discussion or consideration of records or matters made confidential or privileged by statute, court rule, or the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (under ACJA Sec. 1-202(C)(5)(b))

Member Attendance	In Person	Zoom	Absent
Hon. Charles Harrington (Chair) (Retired)	X		
Hon. Anni Hill Foster (Vice Chair)	X		
Katie Bryant			X
Steve German		X	
John Hay	X		
Andy Kvesic	X		
Lynda Shely	X		
Martin Shultz			X
Mike Widener		X	
Tracy Ward		X	
Patrick Barnes	X		

Staff	Guest	Guest
Aaron Nash	Richard Traulsen	Stephanie Long
Marquita Brazil	Colleen Joyce	S Dimmel
Ryan Lincoln	Roey Rosenblith	Helen Tokar
Daisy Cambron-Perez	Michael Melfi	Matthew Rasmussen
	Ramtin Ghaneecian	Jonathan Edge
	Brian Tantalo	Suzanne Porter
	Patricia Sallen	Lucian Pera
	Ernest C'DeBaca	Don Bivens
	Steve Little	Neil Peretz
	Kathy Brody	Dustin Ruge
	Evan Bortz	Lance
	Mark Sullivan	Bena Pierce
	Brint Ryan	Evan
	Chad Pemberton	Thomas Arthur
	Angel Todorov	Nick Gillaspy
	Adam Krause	Richard Nearhood
	Bill Cob	Richard Foster
	Carl Engstrand	Holly Harris
	Ashleigh Dowsauell	Patricia (Trish) Lee Refo

Cristian Cucu	Jamie Herman
Jared Colcord	Cristina Perez Hesano
Kristen Cunningham	Andy Halaby
Laura Ruhl	Brendan Franks
Luke Dyas	Brandon Millam
Peter Mayer	Andrew Tice
Robert Kinsman	Brad Denton
Ryan	Caren Dombrowski
SBS	Jessica Kemper
Scott Williams	Sonny Sandore
Leon Silver	Benjamin Pierce

Call To Order.....**Hon. Charles Harrington**

10:00 am No audio, 10:02 am roll call

1) Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes.....**Hon. Charles Harrington**

1-A: Review, discussion, and possible action regarding approval of the regular session minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2024.

Motion: Approve the regular session minutes of the May 14, 2024, meeting.

Motion Proposals: First: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
 Second: Lynda Shely

Recused:

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2

2) Initial License Applications.....**Division Staff**

2-A:

Review, discussion, and possible action regarding application for initial licensure as an alternative business structure for the following applicants with the following conditions:

- i. ABSs compliance lawyer shall conduct semi-annual audits to review the firm's compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rule 33.1, ACJA § 7-209, and its internal policies and procedures and at the completion of each audit prepare and retain a written report of the findings.*
- ii. Pursuant to Rule 33.1, upon the Committee's determination of whether to recommend licensure, the application and the Committee's determination shall be forwarded to the Supreme Court for review and further action.*

1. RP Legal Group, LLC
2. Vertical Advocacy, LLC
3. ABPV, LLC
4. Ryan Legal Services, PLLC
5. Tice Mendes Law, PLLC
6. Charter Law Group, LLC
7. Ethic Alliance Legal Group, LLC

- 8. Greenlight Path, Inc
- 9. AZ Law Now, LLC

1. RP Legal Group, LLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

Discussion: Brad Denton and Caren Dombrowski were present in person, representing RP Legal Group, LLC, accompanied by Ramin Ghaneian and Ramtin Ghaneian via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for RP Legal Group, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
 Second: John Hay
Recused: Lynda Shely
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Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3

2. Vertical Advocacy, LLC

.....**Marquita Brazil**

Discussion: Cristina Perez Hesano, representing Vertical Advocacy, LLC, attended the meeting in person, while Robert Kinsman and Adam Krause participated via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Vertical Advocacy, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: John Hay
 Second: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
Recused: Andy Kvesic

Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3

3. ABPV, LLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

Discussion: Leon Silver was present in person, representing ABPV, LLC, accompanied by Michael Melfi and Brian Tantalo via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for ABPV, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
 Second: John Hay
Recused: Lynda Shely

Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3

4. Ryan Legal Services, PLLC

.....**Marquita Brazil**

Discussion: Richard Nearhood, Trish Refo, Rich Foster, and Holly Harris attended the meeting in person, while Ryan represented Ryan Legal Services, PLLC, with Kristen Cunningham and Brint Ryan participating via Zoom and addressing the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Ryan Legal Services, PLLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Lynda Shely
Second: Hon. Anni Hill Foster

Recused:

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2

5. Tice Mendes Law, PLLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

Discussion: Tice Mendes Law, PLLC representative Andrew Tice was present in person and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Tice Mendes Law, PLLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Lynda Shely
Second: Hon. Anni Hill Foster

Recused:

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2

6. Charter Law Group, LLC

.....**Marquita Brazil**

Discussion: Charter Law Group, LLC representative Ernest C’DeBaca was present via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Charter Law Group, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: John Hay
Second: Hon. Anni Hill Foster

Recused:

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2

7. Ethic Alliance Legal Group, LLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

Discussion: Ethic Alliance Legal Group, LLC representatives Andy Halaby and Jamie Herman were present in person accompanied by Roey Rosenblith, and Scott Williams via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Ethic Alliance Legal Group, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
Second: John Hay
Recused: Lynda Shely

Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3

8. Greenlight Path, Inc

.....**Marquita Brazil**

Discussion: Greenlight Path, Inc representatives Chad Pemberton, Cristian Cucu, and Angel Todorov were present via Zoom and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for Greenlight Path, Inc with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Lynda Shely
Second: John Hay
Recused:

Pass/Fail: Pass 9-0-2

9. AZ Law Now, LLC

.....**Ryan Lincoln**

Discussion: AZ Law Now, LLC representatives Brendan Franks and Brandon Milllam were present in person and addressed the Committee.

Motion: Approve the initial application for AZ Law Now, LLC with the Division’s recommended conditions.

Motion Proposals: First: Hon. Anni Hill Foster
Second: Andy Kvesic
Recused: Lynda Shely

Pass/Fail: Pass 8-0-3

3) Renewal License Applications.....Daisy Cambron-Perez

3-A: *There are no renewals.*

Break at 12:25pm – 12:30 pm

4) Licensee Updates.....Daisy Cambron-Perez

4-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding application for change in Compliance Lawyer for:*

- 1. Legal Help Partners, PLLC – Compliance Lawyer change from Stephanie Long to Mark Rubin

Discussion: Legal Help Partners, PLLC representatives Mark Rubin was present in person, accompanied by Stephanie Long and Steve Little of the Arizona State Bar and addressed the Committee. Informational item.

4-B: *Review, discussion, and possible action for reprimand for Legal Help Partners, LLC:*

- 1. Legal Help Partners, PLLC- Reprimand

Discussion: Legal Help Partners, PLLC representatives Mark Rubin was present in person accompanied by Stephanie Long, and Steve Little of the Arizona State Bar and addressed the Committee. Informational item.

5) Administrative Items.....Division Staff

..... **Marquita Brazil**

5-A: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding recommended topics for Task Force/ Committee.*

- 1. Qualification requirements for Compliance Lawyers.
- 2. Non-disclosures
- 3. Mergers and acquisitions
- 4. Change to 10-year disciplinary action timeframe (is this an appropriate length of time.
- 5. Economic interest

Discussion: The Committee discussed qualifications for Compliance Lawyers and non-disclosures, voting was not required. The meeting went over the allotted time and the remaining agenda items were tabled to the next meeting, July 9th, 2024.

..... **Marquita Brazil**

5-B: *Division Updates.*

Discussion: No information was discussed as the Committee tabled this to the next meeting, July 9, 2024.

..... **Marquita Brazil**

5-C: *Review, discussion, and possible action regarding an additional regular meeting to cover topics to be determined.*

Discussion: No information was discussed as the Committee tabled this to the next meeting, July 9, 2024.

..... **Marquita Brazil**

5-D: *Updates on the Task Force on Alternative Business Structures*

Discussion: No information was discussed as the Committee tabled this to the next meeting, July 9, 2024.

5-E: *Update on Alternative Business Structures Program and Legal Service Innovations Program.*

..... **Marquita Brazil**

ABS:

The Alternative Business Structures Unit reports the following as of June 5, 2024:

- 76 ABSs are currently active.
- The following are initial applications Under Review, or Not Started

ABS APPLICATION STATUS		
Age (Months)	Number of Applications	Percentage of total (%)
0-3 Months	15	31.9
4-6 Months	9	19.1
7-9 Months	16	34.0
10 months-1 year	7	14.9
Total	47	100
Avg Processing time (Initial) 6 Months		

- There are an estimated 40 renewal applications pending review/triage by the Division. These applications consist of applicants that have submitted the required documentation and ABSs that are out of compliance with the renewal deadline.
 - The Division’s ability to automatically track renewals is temporarily down, therefore, the Division’s renewal reminders have been manual. The Division continues to work on gathering and documenting applications that have been submitted and will contact applicants who are out of compliance with the renewal deadline. As a courtesy, Division staff attempt to remind license holders to submit their renewal applications 30 days before their licensure period ends.
- For potential applicants and those who consult with them, the Division requests that paper applications no longer be submitted. Digital applications should be emailed to the ABS Program box at absprogram@courts.az.gov. Credit card payment can be accepted by U.S. mail or in person but cannot be accepted over email. The division accepts Visa or Mastercard, as well as Checks or Money Orders (payable to “Arizona Supreme Court”)
- Previous initial application Stats from May 14, 2024, committee meeting:

ABS INITIAL APPLICATION STATUS*		
Age	Number of Applications	Percentage of total (%)
0-3 Months	12	26.7
4-6 Months	20	44.4
7-9 Months	13	28.9
10 months +	0	0.0
Total	45	100
Average Processing time 8 Months		

Legal Service Innovations (LSI):

As of May 20, there are 65 licensed legal paraprofessionals holding a total of 67 licensed practice areas approved by the Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers. LPs may be licensed to provide services in more than one practice area. Current practice area licenses:

- o 51 family law
- o 8 civil law
- o 8 criminal law
- o 0 administrative law
- o 0 juvenile dependency law (anticipated mid-2024)
- o 0 probate (pending)

In collaboration with Innovations for Justice (i4J), a joint venture with Denver University and the University of Arizona, LSI recently administered 14 certification exams to the first cohort of Housing Stability Legal Advocates and Domestic Violence Legal Advocates. These Community Based Justice Workers, once fully certified, will be employed with approved service agencies and under an attorney’s supervision, to provide legal aide to those who may not have easy access to justice.

Discussion: The Committee and Division staff discussed the updates for the Alternative Business Structures and Legal Paraprofessionals briefly regarding the change in how ABS applications will be submitted. No further information was discussed, The Committee tabled this to the next meeting, July 9, 2024.

5-F: Review and Discussion regarding application processing timeframes.

..... **Marquita Brazil**

Discussion: No information was discussed as the Committee tabled this to the next meeting, July 9, 2024.

6) Call to the Public.....Hon. Charles Harrington

No public comments were made.

Adjournment.....Hon. Charles Harrington

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.