

These pending minutes have not been approved by the Utah Prosecution Council and are subject to change until approved and adopted by the Council.

Utah Prosecution Council Meeting
Tuesday – January 6th, 2026
West Training Room
College Dr

Pending Minutes

Present: Karyn Walker, UPAA Chair, Provo City Attorney's Office (In person)
Samantha Smith, Bluffdale City Assistant Attorney (In person)
Stuart Williams, Clearfield City Attorney (In person)
Randall McUne, Cedar City Attorney (In person)
Stewart Young, Chief Criminal Deputy, Utah Attorney General's Office (In person)
Stephen Foote, Duchesne County Attorney (Remote)
Chad Dotson, Iron County Attorney (Remote)
Troy Rawlings, Davis County Attorney (Remote)
Brett Robinson, Chief Policy Advisor, Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office
(*designee of Sim Gill, Salt Lake County District Attorney*) (Remote)

Excused: Jess L. Anderson, Utah Commissioner of Public Safety
Sim Gill, Salt Lake County District Attorney
Derek Brown, Utah Attorney General
Ed Montgomery, South Jordan City Attorney, UPC Chair

1. WELCOME

- a. Council members were welcomed.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Samantha Smith motioned to approve the September 23, 2025 and December 11, 2025 minutes. Stuart Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. FY26 BUDGET REVIEW

- a. UPC is about two months behind FINET and the budget.
- b. Marilyn Lawson discussed the prices for Basic going up substantially, totaling about \$9,000 more than last year.

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- c. UPC has perfected the Logan location: the hotel, the meeting space, kickball, and dinner. It would be difficult to move elsewhere.
- d. UPC might be unable to pay for student housing this upcoming Basic.
- e. UPC is looking at other places to host Basic.
 - i. Box Elder County.
 - ii. Down south, like Washington County or St. George. However, Basic is held during peak season and hotel price points might be unrealistic.
- f. Samantha suggested hosting it in an area that wouldn't require lodging.
 - i. UPC holds Basic in Logan to get students away from the court and their house, so they have time to socialize, network, and do their homework.
- g. Chad Dotson discussed the pricing issues of moving Basic down south.
 - i. Marilyn discussed venues in Cedar City and maybe utilizing some prosecutor offices if needed.
- h. Robert Church suggested announcing that UPC will not pay for Basic lodging so offices can account for it in their budget. If UPC is able to pay for student housing, it's a bonus.
- i. Stephen Foote suggested increasing the registration fee to \$500 just for Basic.
 - i. UPC requires approval from the legislature to increase registration fees.
- j. Tyson Skeen pointed out that UPC hasn't paid for lodging in the past, so not paying for lodging isn't unprecedented. If UPC announces upfront that they will be unable to pay for lodging, it will be more palatable to the offices.
- k. Bob suggested offering scholarships for offices unable to pay for their students to come to Basic.
- l. Samantha motioned to approve an announcement that UPC is not going to pay student lodging, then giving a final say closer to Basic. Stuart seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. JOHN R. JUSTICE

- a. Bob announced that John R. Justice probably will not be funded this year.

5. TRAINING COMMITTEE

- a. Advanced Trial Skills
 - i. UPC received helpful and constructive feedback.
 - ii. Students wanted homework. Moving forward, UPC will be providing homework and focusing more on direct and cross of experts.
 - iii. The fact pattern will be kept the same for next year.
- b. 2026 Training Schedule
 - i. DV Boot Camp starts tomorrow.
 - ii. There will be about twenty students. UPC is trying out a new venue.
- c. Visual Trial Skills

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- i. Washington County wants the course to be taught down south. However, because of budget concerns, it would be difficult to offer the course for free like UPC currently does.
- ii. While Blair was able to do the course by himself, the people he taught already had some experience with PowerPoint. UPC is getting a lot of individuals who struggle with technology, and Blair needs TAs.
- iii. Stewart Young agreed that if the course was revenue neutral, then UPC should hold it in Washington County. UPC could bring the course to them and charge \$150 per person like we do for our other conferences.
- iv. Emma Johnsen pointed out that the cost, regardless of if UPC charges a registration fee, would likely still be high.
- v. Randall McUne said out that Visual Trial Skills is a valuable program and UPC doesn't charge registration fees elsewhere and asked if the folks down south are being penalized for living in a different location.
- vi. Samantha agreed that Blair needs at least one other person to TA.
- vii. Tyson discussed waiting for the budget in March and then deciding if we have the funds to send Blair to Washington County on an overnight trip.
- viii. If Washington County wants to do the Visual Trial Skills course sooner, they need to foot the bill.
- ix. Tyson suggested telling Washington County that they just need to pay for hotel rooms, per diem, and mileage for the people going and administering the course instead of charging a flat \$150 registration fee.
- x. Stew made a motion to inform Washington County, and other offices that want to send people, that they will need to cover travel costs if they want the course brought down south. Randall McUne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Spring Conference
 - i. Provo Marriott, April 16-17th.
 - ii. The biggest complaint last year was about the parking situation.
- e. Legislative Update
 - i. Various locations, May 1-31st.
 - ii. Encourage your law enforcement officers to attend and any of your prosecutors who missed Spring Conference.
- f. UPAAs
 - i. Cedar City, June 10-12th.
- g. Basic Conference
 - i. Logan, August 16-21st.
- h. Fall Conference
 - i. Bryce Canyon, September 23-25th.
- i. Advanced Trial Skills

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- i. St. George, October 21-23rd.
- j. UMPA
 - i. Moab, November 4-6th.

6. ePROSECUTOR.

- a. UPC owes huge thanks to Tom Ross and his team at CCJJ.
 - i. Tom Ross and his team at CCJJ found a way to get funding for the licenses. UPC could not have paid for the license otherwise.
- b. Ron spends about 55-60% of his time on eProsecutor and is planning to move forward on e-filing.
- c. Ron will be able to move the website at a minimal cost in February. There should be no impact for our users.

7. UPA REPORT

- a. Karyn Walker discussed the two vacancies on the UPA board. Encourage your staff to apply!
- b. UPA is having their annual board meeting in St. George in a few weeks.

8. 2025 AWARDS

- a. 2025 Prosecutor(s) of the Year
 - i. Bob will be sending out the nomination packet in the next few weeks.
 - ii. Last year, the review committee was UPC staff, Ed Montgomery (council chair), Karyn Walker (UPA chair), and Jeff Buhman (SWAP representative). UPC can invite Carl Hollan to fill that role.
 - iii. UPC is going to solicit nominations from support staff and law enforcement officers to see if this increases nominations, especially for misdemeanor prosecutors.
 - iv. If there are a large number of nominations for misdemeanor prosecutors, UPC will consider creating a separate category next year. If there isn't an increase in the nominations, the category will stay the same.
 - v. Stew asked if there was any interest in not just having *one* prosecutor of the year, especially if there were many nominations. He suggested changing the name to "Outstanding Prosecutor".
 - vi. Samantha pointed out that it's difficult to know how city/misdemeanor prosecutors are doing because their offices are so small.
 - vii. The council discussed a legacy/lifetime award that looks at the prosecutor's entire career instead of just last year.
 - viii. Stew supported splitting up the award categories.

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- ix. Stuart suggested that if UPC wanted to create more awards, there could be more categories: domestic violence, traffic, restitution, misdemeanor, felony, etc.
- x. Randall supported different categories. When the committee reviews the nominations, they can pick a certain category, like "Outstanding Traffic Prosecutor of the Year" instead of having that award every year.
- xi. Tyson suggested just keeping "Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year" and not pigeonholing the prosecutor into a certain category.
- xii. UPC will change the title to "Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year" and rewrite the nomination to include not just the last year but over the course of their entire career.
- xiii. Bob asked the council if UPC wanted to consider appellate attorneys in the "Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year" award. The council agreed that criminal appeals are an integral part of prosecution and should be apart of the awards.

- b. 2025 Assistant of the Year
 - i. Bob suggested soliciting the nominations now and sending out the nomination information to the same people as the Prosecutor of the Year award.
- c. Other Awards
 - i. Bob asked the council if they wanted to recognize an investigator, a victim advocate, or someone else for another award. He liked the idea because it helped build bridges.
 - ii. Tyson disagreed. He suggested that UPC serves prosecutors and not investigators.
 - iii. Stew liked the idea of UPC recognizing different roles important to prosecution. He suggested trying it this year and seeing how it goes.
 - iv. Stew emphasized that victim service staff rarely ever get recognized for the work they do.
 - v. UPC's mission is to train, so are awards something that should be given out in the first place? Is this something UPC should encourage SWAP to do instead?
 - vi. Stew suggested talking about SWAP awards during the SWAP meeting.
 - vii. Tyson worried about the logistics of giving multiple people awards during an already tight conference.
 - viii. Randall supported the idea of giving investigators and officers awards for the stuff they do that actually helps prosecutors.
 - ix. Tyson suggested we keep our name attached to the award because UPC will be the ones paying for, presenting, and promoting the award.

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- x. Stuart suggested checking in with bosses and offices before granting the award.

9. RESOURCE PROSECUTOR REPORT

- a. Tyson discussed wanting to spend less nights in hotels this year. In 2025, he spent 48 nights in hotels for work purposes.
- b. Stew suggested recruiting a few people that UPC trusts that would be able to do presentations or training when our team is unable to.
 - i. Tyson would suggest anyway that those offices call their own prosecutor.
 - ii. The individual trainings for each office are not the problem; it's the longer courses over the course of the year that add up.
- c. Bob suggested Train the Trainer for some city attorneys that could help relieve the burden.

10. 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- a. HB 72 is possibly adding the requirement that UPC create a training and certification process for the use of crypto currency.
- b. Stew volunteered to create a training if it passes.

11. NEXT MEETING

- a. College Dr – April 15, 2026 @ 10:00 AM, SWAP @ 11:30.

12. ADJOURN

- a. Stuart motioned to adjourn. Samantha seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.