

AGENDA

JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION MEETING

**Tuesday, 7 April 2026
11:00 a.m.**

**Judicial Conduct Commission
1385 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115**

NO.	ITEM	REPORTING	TAB
1	Welcome, Call to Order, Public Comment	Chair	1
2	Approval of Public Minutes	Chair	2
3	Director's report	Alex Peterson	3
4	Budget	Alex Peterson	4
5	Statistical Report	Alex Peterson	5
6	Motion to Close Public Meeting Approval of Confidential Minutes Confidential Matters	Chair	6
7	Next Meeting	Chair	
8	Other Business	Chair	
9	Adjournment	Chair	

Notice is hereby provided that the JCC will be meeting in person at the above location. The public is invited to attend at the address above.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Judicial Conduct Commission, (801) 468-0021, at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting date and time.

Tab 2

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION MEETING**

Tuesday, 10 March 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

**Judicial Conduct Commission
645 S. 200 E.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111**

Meeting was conducted at Utah Law and Justice Center, Boardroom

Present:

Ms. Cheylynn Hayman Chair
Ms. Michele Ballantyne Vice-Chair
Rep. Jordan Teuscher
Rep. Grant Miller (video)
Sen. Jen Plumb (video)
Hon. Ryan Harris
Hon. Michael Edwards (video)
Mr. Stephen Studdert
Ms. Georgia Thompson (video)

Excused:

Sen. Brady Brammer
Ms. Linda Dunn

Staff:

Alex Peterson
Aimee Thoman
Cindi Cowles
Joe McGivern

Guests / Public: Aaron
Dodd, Brandon Morgan,
Mark Morgan, Sergio
Cruz, Attorneys and Staff
of Utah Bar Office of
Professional Conduct

1. **Welcome.** Chair called the meeting to order. Public comment allowed. Messrs. Cruz, B. Morgan, M. Morgan and Dodd spoke to the Commission regarding judicial interactions and then departed. The Chair and Commission were then introduced to the attorneys and staff of the Office of Professional Conduct. All parties asked solicited perspectives and responded to questions.
2. **Approval of Minutes.**

Motion: Ms. Thompson To approve the minutes of the public portion of the 6 January 2026 meeting as corrected.

Second: Mr. Studdert

Vote: Unanimous
3. **Director's Report.** Mr. Peterson reviewed the Director's Report, updating the Commission on AJDC / CJEⁱ (x2), JPECⁱⁱ (x2), CCJJⁱⁱⁱ (x1), UCCD^{iv} (x0), AOC^v (x1), and GRAMA^{vi}/Press (0) monthly requests. Staff reported on October Judicial Ethics Conference travel claims. Director provided annual legislative report and summarized legislative testimony.
4. **Budget.** Staff reported on the FY26 budget through February 28, 2026 with total expenditures of \$373,336. Prior year savings and legislative additions to budget resulted in a carry forward balance of \$395,000. The JCC spent 63.9% of available funds through 66.6% of current FY.

5. Statistical Report.

Number of complaints filed to date in FY26	136
Number of cases pending before the Supreme Court	1
Number of cases under formal charges	4
Number of cases under full investigation	5
Number of cases under preliminary investigation	47
Total number of open files	57
Oldest Case	368 days
Average Case age	68 days

In FY26, zero (0) Public Actions and three (3) Dismissal with Warnings have been issued. Nineteen (19) reconsideration requests received to date.

It has been acknowledged that the greater public access to complaint forms via the online complaint portal starting in FY22 has resulted in a significantly increased complaint case load with no similar increase in meritorious complaints submitted. Staff implemented a loading page for the online complaint portal to emphasize the correct way to file appeals.

6. Closure of Meeting via roll call vote.

Motion: Hon. Harris To close the meeting to the public for the purpose of discussing: the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; or investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; or pending or reasonably imminent litigation; or matters covered by attorney client privilege.

Second: Ms. Ballantyne

Vote: Unanimous By roll call

At the conclusion of the confidential portion of the meeting, the meeting was re-opened to the public.

7. Next Meeting and other matters. The Commissioners agreed to conduct a public meeting on 7 April at the anchor location at 11:00 am. The Chair approved Commissioner electronic attendance.

8. Adjournment.

Motion: Ms. Hayman To adjourn.

Second: Not required

Vote: Unanimous

ⁱ Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel / Center for Judicial Ethics

ⁱⁱ Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

ⁱⁱⁱ Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

^{iv} Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy

^v Administrative Office of the Courts

^{vi} Government Records Access and Management Act

Tab 3



Alex G. Peterson
Executive Director

State of Utah

JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION

1385 S. State St., Suite 401
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
Telephone: (801) 468-0021

MEMORANDUM

TO Judicial Conduct Commissioners

FROM Alex G. Peterson

DATE 2 April 2026

RE Director's Report

- MESSAGE**
1. JCC staff activities that have occurred beyond investigative responsibilities since our last meeting.
 2. Information requests regarding the JCC processes / organization:

AJDC / CJE - 2, JPEC - 0, judicial nominations / CCJJ - 4, UCCD - 0, AOC / judicial retirements - 1 and GRAMA / Press - 0.
 3. Director began implementation of new Vantage system (timekeeper, payroll, performance review).

AJDC / CJE is the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel / Center for Judicial Ethics
JPEC is the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission
CCJJ is the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
UCCD is the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy
AOC is the Administrative Office of the Court
GRAMA is the Government Records Access and Management Act

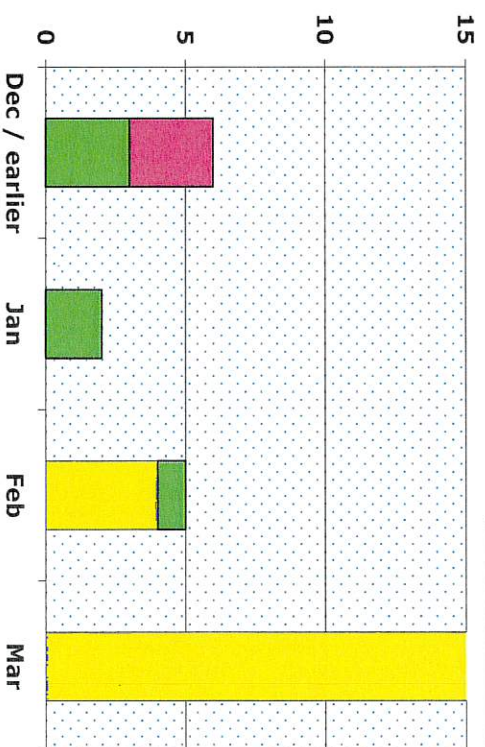
Tab 4

FY 2026 Budget Report - Through February 28, 2026

Description	Amount	Balance
FY 2026 Legislative Appropriation	\$584,200	\$584,200
Estimated FY 2025 Savings Carried into FY 2026	\$350,000	\$934,200
FY 2025 Expenditures through February 28, 2026	\$373,336	560,864
Percent of Current Fiscal Year Passed as of February 28, 2026	66.6%	
Percent of Legislative Appropriation Spent as of February 28, 2026	63.9%	
Percent of Available Funds Spent as of February 28, 2026	40.0%	
Estimated Carry Over From Prior Years	\$350,000	
Projected Remaining Balance Excluding the Balance From Prior Years	\$395,000	
Authorized non-lapsing Balance	\$350,000	

Tab 5

PENDING CASES



- Supreme Court
- Formal Charges
- Full Investigation
- Preliminary Investigation

	Dec / earlier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Preliminary Investigation	0	0	4	17	21
Full Investigation	3	2	1	2	8
Formal Charges	0	0	0	0	0
Supreme Court	3	0	0	0	3
Total	6	2	5	19	22

57 In Process

New Complaints Received Since 3/10/2026 **10**
 Net Increase/Decrease Since 3/10/2026 **25**

Oldest Case / Goal / Previous **397 days / 180 days / 368 days**
 Ave. Case age / Goal / Previous **58 days / 90 days / 68 days**
 Supreme Court & Formal Charges cases excluded

FY 26 to date
 Total FY 24/FY 25/FY 26 complaints **183/197/ 153**
 Total Reconsideration Requests FY25 / FY26 **28/ 22**
 Total DWW FY25/FY26 **5 / 3**
 Total Public Actions FY25/FY26 **0/ 0**