

Survey Circulated:

Please take a moment to read the below and answer 4 brief questions.

An inquiry from the OSB committee on Oregon Pathways to Alternative Licensing for Lawyers:

The model being reviewed requires a 4-year degree, and a 5-year mentor/mentee relationship where the mentee works under the direction of a licensed attorney mentor for a 5-year probationary period. The mentor provides hands on experience, education and testing. The mentee must read a minimum of 10 of the suggested 25 books, and pay \$500 a year to the Bar during the 5-year probationary period. All tests are turned over to the Bar annually. The Washington model has been in existence for approximately 10 years, and the majority of the licensed individuals continue to work for their mentors. Downside is because the mentee does not have a degree, the license is not acknowledged in other states. If the alternative license is issued in Washington, or if Oregon adopts the program, wherever the license is issued, that is the only state where the licensee can practice.

Intention is to improve access to justice by reducing the educational debt with the hope that the licensee would be willing to work for a reduced rate. Washington points out, however, that although that was the intention, it has not been the trend.

1. Are you in favor of Oregon adopting an alternative pathway to lawyer licensing?
2. Do you think there are Oregon paralegals who would be interested in pursuing the license?
3. The educational criteria and hands on experience requirements are being researched and ironed out, but do you have input on educational/experience criteria for the proposed program?
4. Other comments/concerns?

| No. | Question Posed | Response |
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| 1. | Are you in favor of Oregon adopting an alternative pathway to lawyer licensing? | I am in favor of an alternative pathway for access to justice reasons. It sounds like Washington is not having a lot of success with that though. If this is one of the main objectives, perhaps they should put requirements relating to this in the proposal. I don't know what those requirements would be – caps to fees, minimum number of pro bono hours, etc., but maybe worth exploring. |
| | | Yes |
| | | I am not sure. If there is a market for it, I suppose so, but it seems limiting to me. |
| | | Yes |
| | | Yes |
| 2. | Do you think there are Oregon paralegals who would be interested in pursuing the license? | Yes. Not me personally, but I believe there would be some interest. |
| | | Yes |
| | | I don't know, but here is what my coworker said, and she is a legal secretary who is planning to attend law school, and I see her point: "Probably not. From what I understand, it sounds like the alternative licensing offered in other states is only applicable to certain areas of legal practice and isn't |

| No. | Question Posed | Response |
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| | | versatile. I think if an alternative license was offered to the ABA that was nationally recognized I would be more interested." |
| | | Yes |
| | | Yes |
| 3. | The educational criteria and hands on experience requirements are being researched and ironed out, but do you have input on educational/experience criteria for the proposed program? | Maybe more reading. 10 books doesn't seem like a lot. I think a 4 year degree is good, but are there any certain required courses to lay a good foundation for this type of work? I like the 5 year mentor stipulation, but need to make sure the mentors are actually engaging with their mentees and monitoring their work. |
| | | Education should probably include focus on legal education - criminal justice degree or paralegal studies degree from ABA approved program and accredited institution. 5 years mentee experience should be substantive with attorney attestation and the exams should be on multiple areas of practice defined by a Board or Committee for this purpose. |
| | | No. I'd have to see what's in the works. |
| | | Not at this time. |
| | | Not at this time |
| 4. | Other comments/concerns? | I think providing greater access to justice is a great goal and anything the OSB can do to tailor this program to meet that goal would be awesome. |
| | | Recommend a tiered licensing program in concert with the licensed paraprofessional program. |
| | | Nope. |
| | | I believe an alternative pathway to non-lawyer licensing is necessary to provide individuals greater access to legal services. |
| | | Not at this time |