

**MINUTES**  
**Professionalism & Ethics Section**

**12:01pm – 1pm MDT**

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- I. Call to Order by Chair Steve Herring.**
- II. Attendees: Bob Aldridge, Teresa Baker, David Ballard, Jo Beeman, Lyman Belknap, Kimberlee Bratcher, M. Sean Breen, Ronald Bruce, Dan Dinger, Shawna Dunn, Laurie Frost, Jonathan Gradin, Julianne S. Hall, Steve Herring, Larry Hunter, Texie Montoya, Jose Rojas, Jeffrey Street, Floyd Swanton, and Jeffery Ventrella. (20 total)**
- III. Approved Minutes from February 3, 2026.**
- IV. Treasurer Report by Bob Aldridge: Due to the annual March deadline for bar license renewals (which include section membership dues), waiting for updated numbers from the bar to give a financial report.**
- V. Old Business: see item VII just before Adjournment**
- VI. New Business**
  - A. New Vice Chairman and New Member: Jeffrey Street of Litster Frost.**
  - B. Appreciation and thank you to Larry Hunter who stepped down as Chair effective February 3, 2026.**
  - C. Section Officer 30 minute Zoom call each month the section does not meet in person.**
    - 1. Priority: Confirm, at least 2 months in advance, upcoming CLEs during in person meetings of the P &E section.**
    - 2. Priority: Confirm Action Items identified during P&E section meetings.**
  - D. Relaunch Quarterly Ethical Happy Hour**
    - 1. These quarterly functions took a break during Covid.**
    - 2. Partner with other sections.**
    - 3. Hold at different locations.**
    - 4. Collaborate on a legal fundraiser with other sections of the bar.**
  - E. CLEs offered by/affiliated with the P&E Section**
    - 1. CLEs during P&E Section meetings:**
      - NO CLE this week.**
      - Future CLEs: commit to 6, ½ hour (0.5 credit) CLEs each year (every other month).**
      - CLEs booked 2 months out; confirmed 1 week out.**

- **Tuesday May 5:** the bar has already scheduled at noon a free CLE with ethics, as part of attorney well being week.
- **Tuesday June 2, 2026:** Regularly scheduled P&E section meeting. Steve Herring is responsible for ½ hour ethics CLE.
- **Tuesday August 4, 2026:** Regularly scheduled P&E section meeting. Jeffrey Street is responsible for ½ hour ethics CLE.

**2. Annual Ethics CLE conference: 2-3 hours. ANNUAL FUND RAISER.**

- **Scheduling:** consider a date closer to, rather than after, the March deadline for reporting CLE credits to the state bar. Early December? Late January?
- **2026-27 Topics:** “AI ethics” is offered everywhere so consider “ethics beyond the courtroom” (non-practice part of practice: billings; charge for AI time; law firm management; advertising; in house attorneys; marketing/social media). Privacy issues for clients with diminished capacity. The ethical grey area when “digital education” via social media becomes legal advice.

**VII. Annual RICHARD C. FIELDS CIVILITY AWARD sponsored by the Professionalism and Ethics Section of the bar**

**A. At the encouragement of Larry Hunter, who practiced with Dick Fields, the section had a lengthy discussion of the substance and future of this award.**

- 1. There is a perception that only an attorney who has been in practice for many years qualifies for the award.**
- 2. Get input from other sections of the bar because civility isn’t just about litigation.**
- 3. Civility within an area of practice, not just years of practice, should be considered.**
- 4. The award could be part of the annual ethics CLE conference sponsored by the P&E Section. If the annual CLE conference is held in early 2027, it would still be appropriate to hold the 2026 Civility award ceremony at that time.**
- 5. This award needs a champion so that it becomes more well known.**

**B. At the motion of Larry Hunter, it was seconded, amended and approved that the annual CIVILITY AWARD be divided into three areas with three separate awards:**

- 1. A Civility Award for litigation.**
- 2. A Civility Award for the office practice of law (non-litigation; transactional).**
- 3. A Civility Award for a young lawyer with 5-10 years of experience.**

**VIII. Adjourn 1pm (Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 12:00 p.m. MDT)**