

OREGON LAW COMMISSION

QUICK FACT SHEET

What does the [Oregon Law Commission](#) do?

The Commission assists the legislature in keeping the law up to date. By statute, the Commission is directed to “conduct a continuous substantive law revision program. . .” (ORS 173.315). The Commission assists the legislature in keeping the law up to date by:

- Identifying and selecting law reform projects
- Researching the area of law at issue, including other states’ laws to see how they deal with similar problems
- Communicating with and educating those who may be affected by proposed reforms
- Drafting proposed legislation, comments and reports for legislative consideration

How was the Oregon Law Commission formed?

The 1997 Legislative Assembly adopted legislation creating the Oregon Law Commission. Legislative appropriations supporting the Commission’s work began July 1, 2000.

How does the work of the Oregon Law Commission compare to the work of other groups who may have ideas about changing Oregon laws?

The Commission identifies and considers needs that are not likely to be advanced by traditional interest groups.

What projects is the Commission currently working on?

The Commission has approved the submission for two bills for the 2025 Legislative Session.

- [House Bill 2460](#): Update to the Municipal and Justice Court Appeals Process.
- [Senate Bill 164](#): Modernization of Oregon’s Limited Liability Company Act.

In addition, the Commission approved the creation of an [Electronic Wills](#) workgroup in January 2025. The workgroup will begin meeting in Spring 2025.

Who makes up the Oregon Law Commission?

In creating the Commission, the Legislative Assembly recognized the need for a distinguished body of knowledgeable and respected individuals to undertake law revision projects requiring long term commitment and an impartial approach.

[The Commissioners](#) include four members appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House (at least one sitting Senator and Representative), the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court (or his or her designee), the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, a circuit court judge, the Attorney General (or his or her designee), a Governor's appointee, the deans or representatives from each law school in Oregon and three representatives from the Oregon State Bar.

In addition to the fifteen Commissioners, there are currently approximately sixty volunteers that serve on the Commission’s workgroups. Once an issue has been selected by the Commission for study and development, a workgroup is established. Workgroups are made up of Commissioners,

volunteers selected by the Commission based on their professional areas of expertise, and volunteers selected by the Commission to represent the parts of the community particularly affected by the area of law in question. The expectation is that the Commission is able to produce the best reform solution possible by drawing on a wide range of experience and interests.

What is the role of the University of Oregon School of Law?

The University of Oregon School of Law houses the Oregon Law Commission and supports its efforts to recommend law reform, revision and improvement to the legislature while providing opportunities for student and faculty involvement in support of the Commission's work.

Professor Kristen Bell is the Dean's designee on the Commission and professor from a variety of practice areas participate with work groups. The Office of the Director, housed at the University of Oregon School of Law provides staff support to the Commission and the Commission's workgroups. Undergraduate students serve as office assistants, and law students serve as Fellows for the Commission.

How do people get involved?

To apply for service as a volunteer on a workgroup or to receive electronic workgroup meeting notices, please contact the Amy Zubko at the Oregon Law Commission at (541) 346-3298 or azubko@uoregon.edu.