

Oregon Law Commission Work Plan

Rev. Date: 11/7/2025

Statutory Authority.....	1
FY 2026 Goal setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based).....	2
2026 – Q3 and Q4 (January 1 – June 30, 2026) Goal Setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)	3
Important Dates in Q3 and Q4:.....	3
Q3 and 4 Goals.....	3
Q3 and 4 Law Improvement Goals	4
Q3 and 4 Policy Goals	8
Q3 and 4 Governance Goals	9

Statutory Authority

ORS 173.315 (1) “The Oregon Law Commission is established to conduct a continuous substantive law revision program as described in ORS 173.338 (Law revision program).”

ORS 173.338 “The law revision program conducted by the Oregon Law Commission may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Review of the common law and statutes of the state, and current judicial decisions, for the purpose of discovering defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (b) Consideration of changes in the law recommended by the American Law Institute, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, any bar association or other learned bodies.
- (c) Consideration of suggestions from judges, justices, public officials, lawyers and the public generally as to defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (d) Recommendation for changes in the law that the commission considers necessary to modify or eliminate antiquated and inequitable rules of law and to bring the law of Oregon into harmony with modern conditions.
- (e) Recommendation for the express repeal of statutes repealed by implication or held unconstitutional by state and federal courts.

(2) The commission shall study any topic that the Legislative Assembly, by law or concurrent resolution, refers to the commission. [1997 c.661 §3; 2009 c.114 §6]”

FY 2026 Goal Setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)

Topic		Success Looks Like
1. Law Improvement (ORS 173.338 (a), (b))		Become the pre-eminent law improvement vehicle in Oregon
a. Major existing law improvement projects		Electronic Wills Act, LLC Act, Municipal and Justice Courts 2025 – 2027, Partition of Heirs Property
b. Review approved law improvement projects		Corporations Act
c. Develop pipeline of law improvement projects		Estate Planning and Administration/SB 15, Collateral Consequences of Conviction, Juvenile Law, Public Meetings, Landlord/Tenant Statutory Update
2. Policy Questions (ORS 173.338 (c), (d))		Become a multi-disciplinary forum for thought leadership in Oregon
a. Educate judges, justices, public officials, lawyers, and public on role of OLC		Continue updates of the OLC Website; outreach to legislators; 2027 – 2029 budget draft, outreach to practitioners
b. Develop policy analysis model building on OLC process		Outreach to practitioners, judges, stakeholders, and agency representatives
c. Solicit policy questions		Meet with alumni members, practitioners, and stakeholders, work with Commission members to identify and develop potential projects for pipeline.
3. Entity Governance:		Restore mechanisms for effective governance and be effective stewards of the Oregon Law Commission
a. Staff development		Post summer position(s), Legal Fellow
b. Board development		Continue to leverage existing and former Commissioner expertise; Refine Program Committee needs and role, and begin Administration Subcommittee
c. Financial Accountability		Develop effective financial statements; discuss financial statements at Commission meetings, board review and approval of budget proposals and support for OJD budget process
d. UO Partnership		Outreach to UO Law School administration, faculty, and students to increase understanding of OLC and opportunities to collaborate on workgroups and student engagement

e. Develop a 5-year plan for the OLC	Identify stakeholders; consider statutory expectations
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2026 – Q3 and 4 (January 1– June 30, 2026) Goal Setting (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)

Important Dates in Q3 and 4:

Meeting Dates:	Commission Meeting Dates: Friday, March 13, 2026 at 10 am Friday, June 5, 2026 at 10 am Friday, September 25, 2026 at 10 am Friday, December 4, 2026 at 10 am Friday, January 8, 2027 at 10 am Program Committee Meeting Dates: Friday, December 19, 2025 at noon Friday, July 24, 2026 at noon
Goal Check in Dates:	☐ February 1, 2026 ☐ April 1, 2026 ☐ June 1, 2026
Other Important Dates (including planned PTO):	Important Dates: UO Quiet Days (Jan 1-2) January Organizational Days (Jan 13 – 15, 2026), February Legislative Session (February 2 – March 9, 2026), Holidays: New Years Day (1/1), MLJ Jr Day (1/19), Presidents Day (2/16), Memorial Day (5/26), Juneteenth (6/19) Amy Zubko PTO: March 23- 27

Q3 and 4 Goals

1. Q3 and 4 Law Improvement Goals:	Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Meet on a monthly basis to discuss and draft legislation for 2027 legislative session. RULLCA Workgroup: Address fiscal impact statement and explore ways to minimize FIS by August 2026. Electronic Wills: Meet on a monthly basis to discuss and draft legislation for 2027 legislative session. Partition of Heirs Property: Meet on a monthly basis to discuss and draft legislation for 2027 legislative session.
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2. Q3 and 4 Policy Improvement Goals:		New Proposals: Outreach for work group members. Answer questions that come up at Program Committee meeting
3. Q3 and 4 Governance Goals		Meet with Administrative Subcommittee. Track and respond to 2025 -2027 budget and potential modifications to budget. Hire 2026 Summer staff.

Q3 and 4 Law Improvement Goals

In January and February, we will:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Meet in large groups and potentially small groups. • RULLCA Workgroup: Meet with stakeholders to identify language or processes in the Act that create a fiscal impact. Schedule a small group meeting for after session to discuss statutory language. • Partition of Heirs Property: Meet in large groups and potentially small groups. • eWills: Meet in large groups and potentially small groups.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: The February Legislative Session. • RULLCA Workgroup: Short Legislative Session. • Partition of Heirs Property: The February Legislative Session. • eWills: The February Legislative Session.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Block out meeting times earlier and create workplan to schedule smaller more discrete tasks during that time. • RULLCA Workgroup: Begin scheduling conversation in fall 2025. • Partition of Heirs Property: Block out meeting times earlier and create workplan to schedule smaller more discrete tasks during that time.

	• eWills: Block out meeting times earlier and create workplan to schedule smaller more discrete tasks during that time.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Calendaring and a work plan. WG members willing to take the lead on a variety of issues. • RULLCA Workgroup: Scheduling support, an updated version of the Act. • Partition of Heirs Property: Calendaring and a work plan. • eWills: Calendaring and a work plan.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Able to complete discussions on discrete issues. • RULLCA Workgroup: We have a meeting scheduled in January or February and a small group identified to meet in March and April. • Partition of Heirs Property: Forward movement on Uniform Act. • eWills: Forward movement on Uniform Act.

In March and April, we will:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: See above • RULLCA Workgroup: Meet in a small group to discuss changes to the statutory language. • Partition of Heirs Property: Pick up after February break. • eWills: See above.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Mission creep. • RULLCA Workgroup: Scheduling, limited volunteer time • Partition of Heirs Property: Lack of momentum.

	• eWills: Difficulty with application of uniform act language to Oregon systems.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Use of small groups and sticking to schedule. • RULLCA Workgroup: Engage during legislative session. • Partition of Heirs Property: Engage during legislative session. • eWills: Work with stakeholders who need greater clarity.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: A clear workplan and schedule. • RULLCA Workgroup: Draft language • Partition of Heirs Property: Early agenda and materials distribution. • eWills: Time to discuss options. Potential use of small groups.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: The WG is on track to wrap up by the end of August. • RULLCA Workgroup: Small group identifies ways to modify language to remove fiscal. • Partition of Heirs Property: WG keeps moving forward towards August deadline. • eWills: WG keeps moving forward towards August deadline.
In May and June, we will:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Schedule monthly meetings to tackle last issues. Outreach for 2027 Session. • RULLCA Workgroup: Schedule work group meeting to discuss proposed language.

	• Partition of Heirs Property: Schedule monthly meetings. Outreach for 2027 Session. • eWills: Schedule monthly meetings. Outreach for 2027 Session.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: WG has not been able to come to consensus. Folks not available during the summer months due to holidays and election focus. • RULLCA Workgroup: Limited volunteer time. Inability to remove fiscal from Act. • Partition of Heirs Property: WG has not been able to come to consensus. Folks not available during the summer months due to holidays and election focus. • eWills: WG has not been able to come to consensus. Folks not available during the summer months due to holidays and election focus.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Use Small Group process. Schedule early. • RULLCA Workgroup: Schedule early. Work with stakeholders to explore options. • Partition of Heirs Property: Use Small Group process. Schedule early. eWills: Use Small Group process. Schedule early.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: Sufficient time for staff to prep materials. Time. • RULLCA Workgroup: Bill draft. Volunteer time. • Partition of Heirs Property: Sufficient time for staff to prep materials. Time. • eWills: Sufficient time for staff to prep materials. Time.

We will know we've met this goal if:	• Municipal and Justice Court Workgroup: WG stays on schedule. Meetings with Legislators held. • RULLCA Workgroup: Hold work group meeting. • Partition of Heirs Property: WG stays on schedule. Meetings with Legislators held. • eWills: WG stays on schedule. Meetings with Legislators held.
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Q3 and 4 Policy Goals

In January and February, we will:	December Program Committee Follow-up • Outreach for work group members. Answer questions that come up at Program Committee meeting. Prepare for March Commission meeting
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• February Legislative Session • Insufficient staff • Budget Constraints
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Outreach in person during Legislative Session. • Email outreach to practitioners. • Work with project proponents to identify potential work group members. • Advocate for staff.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Staff • Time • Proponent Engagement
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Any proposals that were submitted at the December 2025 Program Committee meeting are submitted to the full Commission for the March 3, 2026 meeting.
In March and April, we will:	• Consider any proposals from the December 2025 Program Committee meeting at full Commission meeting in March. • Begin any projects approved by the Commission.

What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	- Proposals are not approved. - WG members are not identified. - Staffing is insufficient for new proposals. - Lack of a chair and/or reporter for project
Things that we will do to plan for success:	- Work with project proponents to identify WG members. - Work with Legislature and UO to meet staffing needs. - Early outreach to Commissioners for project.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	- Engagement from WG proponents. - Commissioners with the bandwidth to take on WG. - Access to funding.
We will know we've met this goal if:	Meeting(s) scheduled.

In May and June, we will:	Scheduled Monthly Meetings
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	See above
Things that we will do to plan for success:	See above
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	See above
We will know we've met this goal if:	See above

Q3 and 4 Governance Goals

In January and February, we will:	- Begin meeting with Administrative Subcommittee. - Track and respond to 2025 -2027 budget and potential modifications to budget. - Hire 2026 Summer staff.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	Administrative Subcommittee: Legislative Session Schedule. Budget 2025 – 2027: Lack of information. 2026 Summer staff: Legislative Session Schedule. Changes to the UO Hiring Process for students.

Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Work Plan and scheduling information sent out before the end of 2025. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Outreach to Legislative Members of Commission, OJD, UO. • 2026 Summer staff: Schedule around Legislative Session. Outreach to UO.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Time. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Opportunity to meet with Legislators, outreach materials. • 2026 Summer staff: UO HR, Time.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Meetings scheduled in January and going forward. The group has updates for the March 2026 meeting. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Current information on budgeting process and decisions. • 2026 Summer staff: Able to hire summer staff.

In March and April, we will:	• Administrative Subcommittee: The group will have the opportunity to meet and work its way through the WP. • Budget 2025 – 2027: We will have a clear understanding of the budget landscape and will be able to work with OJD to develop the Commission's 2027 – 2029 proposed budget. • 2026 Summer staff: Wrap up interviews with Summer staff and make offers. Get the information to UO HR.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Administrative Subcommittee: Other commitments of subcommittee members.

	• Budget 2025 – 2027: Modifications during the short legislative session which may affect OLC budget. • 2026 Summer staff: Changes to UO HR process.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Set up a monthly schedule. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Identify and plan for potential modifications to OLC budget. • 2026 Summer staff: Work with UO to figure out options.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Staff and time. • Budget 2025 – 2027: An understanding of options. • 2026 Summer staff: An understanding of options.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Administrative Subcommittee: The group meets in April and May with information to share at the June 2026 meeting. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Budget information for UO and the state is submitted in a timely fashion. • 2026 Summer staff: Summer staff are hired and onboarding is scheduled.

In May and June, we will:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Finalize proposals and materials for June 2026 meeting. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Finalize state budget proposals for OJD. • 2026 Summer staff: Onboard summer staff.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Administrative Subcommittee: Lack of time. Lack of consensus. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Budget uncertainty.

	• 2026 Summer staff: UO HR. Unable to hire summer staff.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Meet regularly and schedule in time. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Keep updated on state budgeting process. • 2026 Summer staff: Clear lines of communication.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Time. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Opportunity to work with OJD and UO as necessary. • 2026 Summer staff: An understanding of the new process. An understanding of how to hire summer staff from other law schools.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Administrative Subcommittee: Proposals submitted to the Commission at the June 2026 meeting. • Budget 2025 – 2027: Proposed 2027 – 2029 budget submitted to OJD. • 2026 Summer staff: Summer staff begin work.