



**Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Legal Representation Committee  
May 6, 2021  
Virtual/Electronic Meeting  
2:00 pm**

Public link to meeting rebroadcasts on Boxcast: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/vabajtzeuyv3iclkx1a>

Public link to HRC documents on Box: <https://app.box.com/s/xy3wnn2s1tj8h7trkknvd79bipyxezy>

**1. WELCOME**

- a. CALL TO ORDER
  - i. Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
  - i. Jessica Harris
  - ii. Kathryn Laughon

**2. WORK SESSION**

- a. OHR staff
  - i. Origin of the idea
    - 1. Complainants typically do not have and cannot afford legal representation
    - 2. Respondents typically have legal representation or the means to get it
    - 3. Commissioners brought up the idea of Complainant legal representation during a committee meeting regarding public hearings
    - 4. Potential to model after the tenant right to counsel program being supported by the HRC and City Council
    - 5. No similar legal representation programs in other municipalities in Virginia that have HRC/OHRs
  - ii. OHR staff has a draft resolution recommending a legal representation program to share with the committee
- b. Commissioner discussion
  - i. Suggestion to seek other potential models in other states
  - ii. Note that intention of program is not to provide additional funds to Respondents who can already afford legal counsel
  - iii. Suggests UVA or other universities that provide counsel assistance in Title IX complaints
    - 1. Kathryn will look into the legal representation model used by the UVA Title IX office
- c. OHR staff
  - i. Notes that income and net worth limits are included in the resolution
    - 1. Some respondents may also qualify

**3. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
    - i. None
  - b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
    - i. None
- 4. NEXT STEPS**
- a. OHR staff will provide access to the draft resolution via Box.com:
    - i. <https://app.box.com/s/htbjbpwbi8tv9o1tjpcea72kusvcy1md>
  - b. Kathryn will look into the legal representation model used by the UVA Title IX office
  - c. Jessica and Lyndele will review draft resolution
  - d. Jessica will provide the committee update at the next HRC regular meeting
- 5. ADJOURN**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm