



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING  
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

[www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm)  
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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

June 18, 2020

12:15-1:15 p.m.

By Conference Call

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**Advisory Body****Members Present:**

Hon. Luis Lavin, Hon. Kevin Brazile, Hon. Sue Alexander (Ret.), Kim Bartleson, Hon. Manuel Covarrubias, Hon. Mark Cullers, Mary Hale, Janet Hudec, Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, David Levin, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, Hon. William Murray, Jr., Julie Paik, Michael Planet, Hon. Mickie Reed, Hon. Victor Rodriguez, Janice Schmidt, Hon. Bobbi Tillmon, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Erica Yew

**Advisory Body****Members Absent:**

Gurinder Aujla, Gina Cervantes, Hon. Jason Clay, Ana Maria Garcia, Hon. Mary Greenwood, Sasha Morgan, Michael Powell, Hon. Sergio Tapia, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Twila White, Hon. Kimberly Gaab

**Others Present:**

Lisa Chavez, Douglas Denton, Amy Hammond, Andi Liebenbaum, Jason Mayo, Linda McCulloh, Catherine Ongiri, Elizabeth Tam, Greg Tanaka, Amanda Morris

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**OPEN MEETING**

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. Quorum achieved

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of April 16, 2020 meeting approved.

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**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-4)**

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**Item 1****Annual Agenda Update**

Judge Brazile provided an update to the committee on the items on the Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda was approved by the Executive and Planning Committee on April 24, 2020.

New or one-time projects include:

- ADA bench card update- The working group convened and will begin meeting to revise the ADA Bench Card and the Disability Accommodations Brochure.
- Judicial Council form MC-410 Request for Accommodations redesign. The comment period ended on June 9<sup>th</sup>. A closed meeting will be set for review of public comments.

Ongoing projects and Activities include:

- Diversity in the branch- This item continues to highlight the Pathways to Judicial Diversity including presenting on judicial diversity statewide and the roll out of the toolkit. The committee may also consider potential recommendations regarding the racial inequality highlighted by the recent civil unrest. Short-term the committee is recommending highlighting the existing training resources and judicial education through the Judicial Council on racial justice and diversity. Long term, the committee is considering whether there will be a coordinated response from the Judicial Council on further addressing issues of racial discrimination and bias.
- Items 3-7 on the Annual Agenda are covered under the Language Access Subcommittee Update under Agenda Item 2.
- Futures recommendation for an early education program in civil and small claims- Staff is currently creating content to aid the growing number of self-represented litigants (SRLs) in civil litigation and small claims matters. The focus has been on assisting self-represented litigants navigate civil debt collection cases online.
- Collaborate and provide subject matter expertise- The committee will continue to serve as a subject matter resource with expertise on issues under the committee's charge to increase efficiency and avoid duplication of services within the branch.
- Mental health recommendations- The committee will continue to review and implement recommendations referred to PAF from the Mental Health Issues Implementation Taskforce. Much of the work has already been accomplished through staff presentations developed and provided on behavioral health and mental health over the past few years to judicial officers and attorneys in family law, self-help, and juvenile court.
- Improving access and fairness through technology. The committee will continue to coordinate with the Information Technology Advisory Committee on developing a Self-represented litigant E-Portal.

## **Item 2**

### Language Access Subcommittee Update

Judge Rodriguez provided the committee with an update from the Language Access Subcommittee. He provided a brief overview of the Governor's 2020-21 May Revision and shared that the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) is addressing budget issues related to the Court Interpreter Program Fund. Since April 2020, staff has been organizing the court Language Access Representatives meetings monthly to stay connected with the courts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff continues to share various guidance materials and resources, including guidance for the court and the interpreter on staying safe; translated COVID-19 signage and language advisories for the courts; and also, technology advisories and best practices for video conferencing. Judge Rodriguez shared a new language access services contract with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) commenced on June 15 and will conclude on March 31, 2022. Several of the contract deliverables support language access projects that are on the 2020 PAF and Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) Annual Agendas.

**Item 3**

Judicial Diversity Toolkit Update

The Judicial Diversity Toolkit continues to be presented to courts and legal organizations throughout the state. Presentations have transitioned to virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Item 4**

Nominations Update

Nominations period closed on June 5, 2020. There were 8 open positions and 25 nominations. The nominations memo is being finalized and the committee will be updated at the next meeting.

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**I. ADJOURNMENT**

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**Adjourn to Closed Session**

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**II. CLOSED SESSION**

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**Item 1**

Legislative Working Group Update

*Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 10.75 (D)(10)*

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**III. ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on August 20, 2020.