



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

June 17, 2021

12:15-1:15 p.m.

By Conference Call

Advisory Body**Members Present:**

Hon. Luis Lavin, Hon. Kevin Brazile, Gurinder Aujla, Gina Cervantes, Ana Maria Garcia, Janet Hudec, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, David Levin, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Sasha Morgan, Julie Paik, Hon. Mickie Reed, Hon. Victor Rodriguez, Janice Schmidt, Hon. Sergio Tapia, Hon. Bobbi Tillmon, Hon. Terry Truong,

Advisory Body**Members Absent:**

Hon. Sue Alexander (Ret.), Kim Bartleson, Hon. Manuel Covarrubias, Hon. Mark Cullers, Hon. Mary Greenwood, Mary Hale, Hon. William Murray, Jr., Michael Planet, Michael Powell, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Twila White, Hon. Erica Yew.

Others Present:

Irene Balajadia, Lisa Chavez, Douglas Denton, Charli Depner, Amy Hammond, Bonnie Hough, Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, Danielle McCurry, Amanda Morris, Catherine Ongiri, Elizabeth Tam, Greg Tanaka, Lisa Chavez, Irene Balajadia

OPEN MEETING**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. Quorum achieved

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the meeting minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Judge Bobbi Tillmon and seconded by Judge Lia Martin. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 4)**Item 1****2021 Advisory Committee Nominations (No Action Required)**

Status Update on Advisory Committee Nominations

Presenter: Justice Luis Lavin

The Executive and Planning Committee has completed discussions on the nominations and will be meeting with the Chief Justice to finalize appointments. Appointment letters will go out in late June or early July.

Item 2

Model Self Help Funding (Informational Only)

Update on the status of Model Self-Help Funding

Presenter: Justice Luis Lavin

On March 12, 2021, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation to reallocate funding for 2021-22 of \$191,400 in Model Self-Help Pilot Projects by including a request for proposals in the Court Technology Modernization Funding Portal as a way to consolidate multiple application processes for courts. Staff was directed to submit an informational report on the outcome of award and allocation decisions to this committee. This is the report on allocations for 2020-21.

Eight applications were received requesting \$735,182. Since only \$191,400 was available, only four proposals could be funded. The funded projects include one by the Superior Court of San Mateo to focus on real time, remote document preparation of judgment orders with customers who may have limited access to technology. The Superior Court of Santa Cruz County, which will work in conjunction with San Benito to purchase technology hardware for Zoom and develop Zoom user guides and bilingual Zoom user tips. The Superior Court of San Joaquin County will purchase technology hardware to allow staff to redact and comment on in-person customers' documents submitted as responsive web forms, along with other technology hardware to be used in the post-pandemic computer assistance lab. And, the Superior Court of Sutter County will be funded to develop a computer lab with video-to-computer capability for remote, online and hybrid classes.

Item 3

Language Access Services Update (No Action Required)

The Language Access Subcommittee Chair will provide a status update on current subcommittee projects.

Presenter: Judge Victor Rodriguez

Judge Rodriguez shared the revised Video Remote Interpreting Guidelines were approved by the Judicial Council at its May 21st meeting. The Language Access Services team in collaboration with Information Technology staff will continue to develop resources and best practices to support the courts and court users regarding the appropriate use of VRI. Language Access Services has contracted with the National Center for State Courts to develop VRI online training modules for judges, court staff and court interpreters. Fourteen (14) courts are registered for free customized virtual trainings for this summer and fall. NCSC is contracted to provide up to 18 trainings this calendar year. The trainings will be specific to each court's needs, from technology infrastructure to regional interpreter agreements, subject matter experts will address the unique needs and questions of each court.

Judge Rodriguez shared for the public outreach campaign that launched in March, staff and the NCSC conducted a series of three successful webinars that discussed and included: a panel on language access services in the court and recent innovations, especially during the pandemic; a justice partner and community organization panel that explored recommendations and strategies to help the courts better reach the state's

diverse geographical communities and ensure public trust and confidence in the courts; and a panel that focused on the multilingual educational materials that are located on the online Language Access Toolkit and California Courts Self-Help Center. The webinar series brought in a total of over 800 attendees and included court staff, court stakeholders and court interpreters and the webinar recordings are posted on the language access Toolkit public outreach page for viewing at any time. At the conclusion of the webinar series, staff conducted direct follow up e-mail outreach to the courts and stakeholders to share a helpful digital resource guide developed to assist stakeholders to promote and distribute the multilingual educational materials located on the Toolkit. The final component of the campaign will take place this summer and fall and we will work with Ethnic Media Services on the placement and dissemination of the multilingual materials to various multi-ethnic publications and radio media channels in the state.

For the FY 2020-21 Signage and Technology Grants, Judge Rodriguez shared staff launched the Signage and Technology grant application for the FY 2021-2022 cycle last month. The deadline to apply for Cycle 3 funding is June 25. Awarded courts from Cycles 1 and 2 have been presenting their projects at the Language Access Representatives webinar meetings, sharing their ideas, experiences, and resources with each other. A report is currently being developed that summarizes and highlights the Cycle 1 projects.

Item 4

Judicial Diversity Summit (No Action Required)

Update on Judicial Diversity Summit

Presenter: Catherine Ongiri

Staff from the Judicial Council has been working with the California Judge's Association and the California Lawyers Association to plan an impactful and dynamic Judicial Diversity Summit. Representation from PAF includes our cochairs, Justice Lavin and Judge Brazile, Judge Kolakowski and Judge Macias. This summit began in 2006 and occurs every 5 years. The summit seeks to assess the success of efforts to increase judicial diversity in California. Many of our PAF members have previously participated and served in planning previous summits. We are super excited to offer pre-summit sessions in August leading up the Summit in September. This year, we have deconstructed the Summit, which will be held virtually over three consecutive Tuesdays: September 14, 21 and 28. We have also set aside six one-hour time slots for pre-Summit sessions to take place over consecutive Wednesdays: August 4, 11, 18, 25 and September 1 and 8. The August 4 session will serve as our kick-off event and feature Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte (Ret.), Ruthe Ashley and Patricia Lee reflecting where we have been in our collective efforts to increase judicial diversity. The other pre-summit sessions will be geared towards the Pathway to the Bench and include sessions on judicial affinity groups, judicial mentoring, K-12 outreach, increasing diversity in underrepresented counties, and barriers to the bench. The sessions will highlight the work judges are doing throughout the pipeline to increase diversity on the bench. We have convened an advisory committee of affinity judicial and bar association representatives to help plan the pre-sessions and the second day of the summit.

At the summit we will have opening remarks from our Chief Justice, we will discuss the current state of judicial demographics, the definition of judicial diversity, sharing what is working in terms of increasing judicial diversity and the final day we will look towards the impact of judicial assignments and elevation to the courts of appeal. Please distribute the Summit materials to your networks.

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on August 19, 2021.