

**Trial Court Funding Workgroup  
Minutes of the December 11, 2012 Meeting**

Mr. Phillip Isenberg., Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, in the Veranda Conference Room of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Sacramento office.

**Trial Court Funding Workgroup members present:** Justice Harry E. Hull, Jr.; Mr. Phillip Isenberg; Judges Emilie H. Elias, Mary Ann O'Malley, and David Rosenberg; Ms. Diane Cummins, Mr. Martin Hoshino, Ms. Eraina L. Ortega, and Mr. David Yamasaki.

**Lead staff members present:** Ms. Jody Patel

**Public Comment**

There were two letters submitted to the Trial Court Funding Workgroup for consideration. There were no requests to speak to the workgroup.

**Approval of November 6, 2012 minutes**

No changes were requested to the November 6, 2012 meeting minutes that were distributed to the members in advance of the meeting. Justice Hull moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Judge O'Malley. The workgroup unanimously approved.

**Review of Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Ch. 850, Stats of 1997) (AB 233)**

Mr. Isenberg reminded the workgroup members that at the November 6, 2012 meeting staff was asked to review the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Act) for significant amendments over the past 15 years and provide an updated Act for review. Staff developed and provided the members with a side-by-side comparison of the Act.

Mr. Isenberg requested that the workgroup review the Act and determine the progress made towards compliance. It was suggested that certain sections are more reflective of the charge of the workgroup. As a result, the workgroup concentrated their discussion on sections 2, 3, 33.2, 42, and 46. The workgroup members discussed specific examples of accomplishments and areas where more discussions would be helpful for the workgroup. Some accomplishments noted:

- One-day, one-trial jury management.
- Uniform rules and forms.
- Statewide procurement master services agreements.
- Statewide workers compensation program.
- Litigation management unit within the judicial branch handles all litigation against judicial branch entities.

- Collection of judicial branch statistics that courts are required to capture.
- Phoenix Financial System—all 58 courts are on the system.
- Consolidation of municipal and superior courts into one superior court in each county.

Areas where more discussion would be helpful:

- What is meant by ‘equal access to justice’ and whether it has been achieved.
- Process utilized to allocate funds to the trial courts.

#### *Action*

As a result of the workgroup discussion, staff was directed to gather the following information:

- Compile a summary document that identifies progress towards compliance with all the provisions of the Act (as amended), including identification of areas where progress still needs to be made. The summary document will also address subsequent developments to fines, fees, distributions, and collection activities described in the Act.
- Identify all areas in the Act that reference ‘equal access’ and summarize the concepts to allow the workgroup to measure progress towards achieving these provisions of the Act.
- Journalistic retrospective on the judicial branch, pre and post Trial Court Funding Act.
- National Center for State Courts report *Principles for Judicial Administration*.
- Identification of judicial branch accomplishments in the areas of uniform standards and procedures, efficiencies, and structural improvements. This listing is to include if the accomplishment is mandatory or permissive, the implication of the accomplishment, and if available statewide.

#### **Funding Analysis**

During the November 6, 2012 meeting, staff was directed to provide the workgroup members with a history of funding appropriated for the trial courts since passage of the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997. Ms. Patel notified the members that staff is diligently working on the request and hope to have it available for review at the January 15, 2013 meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.**