



## THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

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DATE: June 27, 2011

TO: Members, Board Committee on Stakeholder Relations

FROM: Saul Bercovitch (415) 538-2306  
Mary Lavery Flynn (415) 538-2251

SUBJECT: **Commission on Impartial Courts: Recommendations Involving the State Bar**

In 2007, former Chief Justice Ronald M. George established the Commission on Impartial Courts to study and provide recommendations on ways to strengthen our court system, increase public trust and confidence in the judiciary, and ensure judicial impartiality and accountability for the benefit of all Californians. In setting up the Commission, Justice George said:

“The manner in which judges are selected, retained, and removed from office can have a serious impact on the independence of the judiciary. It is essential that we make every effort to avoid politicizing the judiciary so that public confidence in the quality, impartiality, and accountability of judges is protected and maintained.”

In December 2009, the Commission issued a final Report containing seventy-one recommendations that cover the selection and retention of judges, conduct by judicial candidates, campaign finance and advertising, and public education and information about the judiciary, judicial elections, and judicial candidates. The full Report is available at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cicfinalreport.pdf>

Attached is a chart that identifies those recommendations that involve the State Bar in some way, and describes the status of each. This informational agenda item is intended to update members of the Board Committee on Stakeholder Relations on the status of each of these recommendations, some of which have already been implemented or have had significant progress in their implementation.

**Attachment:**  
**Chart of Impartial Courts Recommendations Involving the State Bar**