

AGENDA ITEM

MARCH 132

DATE: February 13, 2012

TO: Members, Member Oversight Committee
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Philip Belleville, Chair, Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee
Richard Carlton, Acting Director, Lawyer Assistance Program

SUBJECT: Lawyer Assistance Program 2011 Annual Report –
Statutory Report and Filing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lawyer Assistance Program (“LAP”) of the State Bar of California presents the LAP 2011 Annual Report, pursuant to Senate Bill 479, due on March 1st. The Report is being printed. The Report will be distributed to you at the meeting. Board members with questions or concerns may contact Richard Carlton, 415-538-2355 or richard.carlton@calbar.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

The LAP is premised on early identification of attorneys suffering from substance abuse or mental illness. The program assists the Bar to protect the public, the courts, and the legal profession by offering education and rehabilitative programs to State Bar members. The program also works in conjunction with the State Bar Court Alternative Discipline Program to offer an alternative to traditional disciplinary sanctions. Section 6238 of SB 479 directs the Oversight Committee of the LAP to report to the Board of Governors and to the Legislature not later than March 1, 2003, and annually thereafter, on the implementation and operation of the program.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REPORT

The LAP provided effective early intervention and made progress toward meeting the goals of the LAP Oversight Committee’s Long-Range Strategic Plan and the Member Services Departmental Plan during 2011. Specific initiatives during the year included: (1) at the direction of the Board of Governors, continuing to reduce program expenditures without compromising the quality of services provided to the membership, and (2) continuing to work with an outside agency to enhance the rate of repayment of funds previously loaned to participants in the program (pursuant to B&P Code §6235).

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

None.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

None.

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee recommends that the Member Oversight Committee receive and accept the 2011 LAP Annual Report, pursuant to Senate Bill 479, in the form attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Should the Member Oversight Committee agree with the above recommendation, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, that the Member Oversight Committee recommends that the Board receives the report and thanks staff for its submission of the Lawyer Assistance Program 2011 Annual Report, in the form attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION:

Should the Board concur with the Member Oversight Committee's recommendation, the following resolutions would be in order:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Member Oversight Committee, the Board hereby receives the report and thanks staff for its submission of the Lawyer Assistance Program 2011 Annual Report, in the form attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.