

AGENDA ITEM

54-132 NOVEMBER

DATE: October 24, 2012

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

FROM: Dina DiLoreto, Managing Director, Member Records & Compliance

SUBJECT: Annual Recommendation to the Supreme Court for Expungement of Member Records in accordance with Rule of Court 9.6(b)

ATTACHMENT: List of eligible members to be expunged (available at meeting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California Rule of Court 9.6 (b) provides for an annual Board recommendation of expungement to the California Supreme Court of non-disciplinary suspensions within limited circumstances. Annually, there has been an average of 100 members who have one fee suspension that occurred more than 7 years ago, for 90 days or less, and who have no other record of suspension or involuntary inactive enrollment for discipline or otherwise. Pursuant to Rule 9.6(b), they are eligible for recommendation that the Supreme Court grant a one-time only expungement. If the Board approves the recommendation, a list of eligible members will be transmitted to the Supreme Court for its order of expungement. A finalized list of members who may benefit will be made available at the Board meeting.

Questions concerning this item should be directed to Dina DiLoreto at 415-538-2121 or Dina.DiLoreto@calbar.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

California Rule of Court 9.6 (b) allows for the one-time expungement of a State Bar of California member's record of fee suspension if the following conditions apply:

- 1) The member has not on any previous occasion obtained expungement under the terms of Rule 9.6(b);
- 2) The suspension was for 90 days or less;
- 3) The suspension ended at least seven years before the date of submission of member's name to the Supreme Court; and
- 4) The member has no other record of suspension or involuntary inactive enrollment for discipline or otherwise.

This year, State Bar staff has prepared a list of approximately 145 members who qualify under the criteria of Rule 9.6 (b). The list has been extensively checked and a process has been developed to expunge these members' records. This list will be made available at the meeting.

Should the Board recommend expungement of eligible members' suspension for nonpayment of fees, State Bar staff will transmit the list to the Supreme Court with a recommendation that each of these members' public record of suspension for nonpayment of membership fees be expunged. Upon issuance of the Court's order, eligible members will be notified by mail that such record has been expunged and a copy of the expungement order will be included.

Rule 9.6(c) requires that the State Bar of California maintain such internal records as are necessary to apply the terms of 9.6(b) of this rule and to report to appropriate governmental entities the member's eligibility for a judgeship under the California Constitution, article VI, section 15 which requires judicial nominees to report all suspensions within the last 10 years of their judicial application. State Bar staff has developed a process and protocol to meet this requirement. Rule 9.6(d) outlines the members' duty of disclosure under these circumstances.

BOARD AUTHORITY

California Rules of Court, Rule 9.6(b) authorizes the State Bar to transmit to the Supreme Court, on an annual basis, the names of those members who meet the criteria of Rule 9.6(b) along with a recommendation that their public record of suspension for non-payment of membership fees be expunged. To be eligible for expungement, the following criteria must be met:

- 1) The member has not on any previous occasion obtained expungement under the terms of Rule 9.6(b);
- 2) The suspension was for 90 days or less;
- 3) The suspension ended at least seven years before the date of submission of member's name to the Supreme court;
- 4) The member has no other record of suspension of involuntary inactive enrollment for discipline or otherwise.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

These actions were included in the 2012 budget and personnel planning; therefore, there will be no additional fiscal or personnel impact.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

None.

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the board committee and the Board recommend to the California Supreme Court that, pursuant to Rule of Court 9.6(b), eligible suspensions for nonpayment of fees be expunged from the membership records of the State Bar.

PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLVED, that the Member Oversight Committee hereby ascertains and determines that each of the persons named in the list this day before the board committee is a member of the State Bar of California who meets the criteria for expungement set forth in California Rule of Court 9.6; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Member Oversight Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees recommends to the California Supreme Court that each such person's suspension for nonpayment of fees be expunged from the membership records of the State Bar; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon the Court's order of expungement, staff is directed to immediately expunge the suspensions from the membership records and notify each member of the Court's order and the expungement.

PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees hereby ascertains and determines that each of the persons named in the list this day before the Board is a member of the State Bar of California who meets the criteria for expungement set forth in California Rule of Court 9.6; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Member Oversight Committee, the Board of Trustees recommends to the California Supreme Court that each such person's suspension for nonpayment of fees be expunged from the membership records of the State Bar; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED: that, upon the Court's order of expungement, staff is directed to immediately expunge the suspensions from the membership records and notify each member of the Court's order and the expungement.