



January 9, 2020

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission
State Bar of California
180 Howard St,
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: 2020 Bank Grant Awards

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing on behalf of Western Center on Law & Poverty, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, National Housing Law Project, and The Public Interest Law Project. We are the principal support centers in California, providing technical assistance, advice and co-counseling for the state's IOLTA funded organizations working on housing issues, including the organizations that were funded through the 2020 Bank Grant Program.

While each of us were invited to join many of the applicants for funding, we felt it was more equitable, efficient, and cost effective for the State Bar to simply submit one joint support center proposal, that would allow us to provide assistance to all of the organizations that received awards. Throughout our proposal, we quantified litigation, trainings and advocacy activities that would directly support field programs and focus the expertise of the support centers on the critical issues of affordable housing and tenant protections. Our assumption, which appears to be incorrect, was that the State Bar would prefer the support centers to assist all of the funded field programs, rather than just a few. Since the RFP asked applicants to apply for support for new activities, we understood that our support services would be in addition to already funded work.

However, we were not awarded a grant to support the work of the funded field programs. We've spoken with State Bar staff who suggested we write the Commission, so that we might better understand the decision and potentially explore other funding for this important work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Tepper
Executive Director

cc: Shamus Roller, Mike Rawson, Jennifer Cesario

