

# AGENDA ITEM

137 JULY

**DATE:** June 29, 2012

**TO:** Members, Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Pam Wilson, Interim Senior Director, Office of Education

**SUBJECT:** Revisions to the CYLA Mission and Charge

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) Board requests permission to revise and update its Mission and Charge to align it with the new Board of Trustees governance model. Board members with questions about the proposal may contact Pam Wilson at (415) 538-2395 or [pam.wilson@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:pam.wilson@calbar.ca.gov)

---

## BACKGROUND

The California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) Board would like to revise and update the CYLA Mission and Charge in order to align it with the new Board of Trustees governance model, to permit one to three special advisors who previously served on the CYLA Board, and to institutionalize the current practice of providing regular CYLA reports and updates to the Member Oversight Committee (MOC) as a regular presenter on the MOC agenda.

## FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

None

## RULE AMENDMENTS:

None

## BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

Revision to Tab 19, Section 17 of the Board Book will be required.

## RECOMMENDATION

MOC approved the updated CYLA Mission and Charge statement at its May 10, 2012 meeting and recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following:

## **CALIFORNIA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT**

The California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees to advise the Board of Trustees of the interests of California young lawyers, to develop strategies for increasing young lawyer involvement and participation in the State Bar of California, to facilitate the development of programs and services that would assist young lawyers in their professional and leadership advancement and programs that benefit the public.

A California young lawyer is defined as a member in good standing of the State Bar of California who is in his or her first five (5) years of practice in California or whose age is 36 or under.

CYLA Board members will serve as the ambassadors of the State Bar to the young lawyer organizations within the state. The CYLA Board will also screen candidates for the annual Jack Berman Award of Achievement.

The CYLA Board will be composed of 20 members appointed by the Board of Trustees. Six of the appointed seats shall be designated for representatives of each of the six court of appeal districts, one member per district. The remaining 14 seats shall be filled by appointments at large. The CYLA Board will also be composed of one to three special advisors who have previously served on the CYLA Board. CYLA membership consists of State Bar of California active members, who will be drawn from diverse constituencies, including but not limited to geographic location, racial and ethnic diversity, practice setting, practice type, district representation, gender, and sexual orientation. CYLA will report to the Board Committee on Member Oversight or other designated Board Oversight Committee as determined by the Board of Trustees.

CYLA is funded by mandatory dues.

## **CALIFORNIA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CYLA) CHARGE:**

The charge of CYLA is to:

- A. Advise the Board of Trustees on strategies to make the State Bar and CYLA continually relevant and beneficial to young lawyers in California.
- B. Promote the interests of young lawyers in California.
- C. Be responsible for programs, services, professional development and trend analysis, to assist young lawyers in becoming respected and successful members of the State Bar, keeping both CYLA and the State Bar ahead of the curve.
- D. Develop communication strategies that engage young lawyers in California.

- E. Create and continually strengthen outreach efforts to the barristers' organizations throughout the State and across the country.
- F. Assist the State Bar in the administration and implementation of its programs and responsibilities.
- G. Develop and implement regular public service projects that utilize the skills of the state's young lawyers and that would measurably benefit the public.
- H. Encourage and promote pro bono work.
- I. Identify and encourage young attorneys to become active participants in the administration and governance of the State Bar and make specific recommendations to the Board of Trustees for increasing their participation.
- J. Comment and advise on issues of relevance and importance to young lawyers in California.
- K. Screen applicants and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for recipients of the annual Jack Berman Award of Achievement.
- L. CYLA will provide regular reports to the Member Oversight Committee There will be a permanent place on the board committee agenda for CYLA reports and updates.

#### **PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION:**

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

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Member Oversight Committee, the Board hereby recommends that the Board approve the CYLA Mission and Charge as noted above.