



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

180 HOWARD STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-1639

OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES

MARY LAVERY FLYNN, Director

Legal Services Trust Fund Program (415) 538-2098 Fax (415) 538-2529
Center on Access to Justice (415) 538-2176 Fax (415) 538-2552

OCTOBER

2012 – 2013 Planning Document
Stakeholder Relations Committee

2012 – 2013 PLANNING DOCUMENT STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

<u>Chair:</u>	Alec Y. Chang	(650) 470-4684	Alec.Chang@skadden.com
<u>Vice Chair:</u>	Nancy L. Fineman	(650) 697-6000	nfineman@cpmlegal.com

<u>Members:</u>	Michael G. Colantuono	(530) 432-7357	MColantuono@CLLAW.US
	Loren Kieve	(415) 364-0060	lk@kivelaw.com
	Dennis Mangers	(916) 425-8167	dennismangers@aol.com
	Mark Shem	(408) 535-0870	mshem@bortonpetrini.com
	Christopher W. Todd	(619) 232-8151	ctodd@wingerlaw.com
	David Torres	(661) 326-0857	lawtorres@aol.com

<u>Board Committee Coordinator:</u>	Mary Lavery Flynn	(415) 538-2251	Mary.Flynn@calbar.ca.gov
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<u>Executive Office Contact:</u>	Robert Hawley	(415) 538-2070	Robert.Hawley@calbar.ca.gov
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1. Purpose of Committee:

The Stakeholder Relations Committee (SRC) is responsible for developing strategies to ensure that the State Bar has cooperative and effective relations with its key external stakeholders, including all three branches of government. In achieving these goals, the SRC also works closely with the Office of Legal Services, including both the Center on Access to Justice and the Legal Services Trust Fund Program, the Center on Access and Fairness, Office of Media & Information Services, Bar Relations; and several committees and commissions, including:

- the California Commission on Access to Justice
- the Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS)
- the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission
- the Council on Access and Fairness (COAF), and
- the Administration of Justice Committees.

The Stakeholder Committee also focuses on legislation that impacts the practice of law or the State Bar, through its legislative representative.

2. Goals for the Stakeholder Relations Committee for the 2012-2013 Board Year:

Legislation

- Recommend approval of affirmative legislative proposals of the Bar and the Sections, and monitor key legislation such as the bar's fee bill.
- Recommend proposed comments on bills of others throughout the year.

Judicial Outreach

- Coordinate with the statewide Bench/Bar Coalition and the Open Courts Coalition on court budget reductions and other issues of mutual concern.
- Work with the Judicial Council and Supreme Court on issues of mutual concern.

Office of Legal Services (OLS) - Legal Services Trust Fund Program

- Approve distribution of IOLTA, Justice Gap Funds, Equal Access Fund, and the Temporary Emergency Legal Services Voluntary Assistance Fund.
- Seek other ways to expand funding for legal services through the Campaign for Justice, including support for the Justice Gap Fund and maximizing IOLTA yield.
- Support for improved public understanding of need for legal services and lack of adequate resources.

Office of Legal Services (OLS) – Center on Access to Justice

- Foreclosure Assistance trainings and support for legal aid programs.
- Lending a helping hand to veterans – initiative launched in 2010-2011.
- Implementation of policy paper on Rural Legal Services.
- Participation in Pro Bono Week, October 22nd; consider other ways Bar can help expand pro bono.
- Support for Campaign for Justice, particularly October as Campaign for Justice Month, highlighting need for increased pro bono and financial support for legal services.
- Promote Participation in Pro Bono Practice Program.
- Implementation of Lawyer Referral Services Rule Revisions.
- Continue to monitor implementation of State Bar-related recommendations in Judicial Council Elkins Family Law Report and the Commission on Impartial Courts.

Council on Access & Fairness [Diversity and Elimination of Bias]

- Updates and/or final reports on projects: (Law Academies, Community College Initiatives, Impact of Economic Downturn on Diversity Programs and Policies, Law School Rankings and Judicial Diversity).
- Implicit Bias Training in the diversity pipeline (law academies in public education, community colleges, legal employers, and judiciary).
- Possible Diversity survey -- a five year follow up on attorneys from diverse backgrounds (minorities, women, LGBT, older attorneys and attorneys with disabilities).

Bar Relations

- Incorporate LRS executive directors and leadership into the annual Bar Leaders Conference.
- Evaluate a bi-annual survey tool to assess trends, concerns and needs of the local bar and Lawyer Referral Services program leadership.
- Consider possible new modes of stakeholder outreach via electronic communication.
- Advise the board of association trends and recommendations on how the State Bar could work more closely with this organizations.
- Incorporate the importance of supporting the EOB/Bar Relations Voluntary contribution into all aspects of communications with the appropriate stakeholders.

Other Committee Priorities

- Identify stakeholder issues for consideration by the Board.
- Oversee Board member participation in outreach programs in appropriate forums on behalf of the State Bar.
- Periodically review committee strategies and the effect of their implementation.

3. Proposed Priorities and Presentation Initiatives. The Committee will follow up on the three priorities identified at the January 2012 Board Planning Session:

- Increasing need for legal assistance by seniors (note – there is also an increasing need for help by senior lawyers, but that may be covered by other committees).
 - Expanding resources for legal services for low-income Californians.
 - Expanding pro bono – we would like to focus attention on the need for more pro bono in rural areas.
- The Committee will also continue the “think tank” presentations -- Helping to educate the board on key issues that involve the “public protection” mission of the State Bar. [Note that we will keep the presentations brief and focused on the role of the Board.] Possible topics could include:
 - Presentation by the California Bar Foundation.
 - Status of efforts to expand legal services for veterans.
 - Update on addressing need for legal assistance for those facing foreclosures.
 - Other ways to address legal needs of rural Californians.

4. Key Events:

- Campaign for Justice Month – October
- Pro Bono Week, October 22nd
- Aranda Award Presentation at Judicial Council (December, 2012)
- Chief Justice State of the Judiciary Speech to Legislature (Feb-April, 2013)
- Targeted Participation in Bench-Bar Coalition Day in Sacramento
- Equal Justice Conference, St. Louis, May, 2013
- Bar Leader Conference, October, 2013
- President’s Pro Bono Reception, October, 2013
- Annual Diversity Awards Reception, October, 2013

Proposed Items for Stakeholder Relations Committee
2012 - 2013

November 15-16, 2012 – Thursday-Friday – Los Angeles

- Discuss Committee priorities for the year
- Proposed Legislation for 2013

January 10-12, 2013 – Thursday-Saturday – Board Planning Meeting – TBD

- [No committee meetings planned]

March 7-8, 2013 – Thursday-Friday – Los Angeles

- Legal Services Trust Fund – Set Amount for 2013-2014 IOLTA Grants, Justice Gap Fund and Temporary Emergency Legal Services Fund
- Consideration of bills of others
- 2012 Accomplishments – California Commission on Access to Justice
- 2012 Accomplishments – Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services

May 9-10, 2013 – Thursday-Friday – San Francisco

- Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation; 2012 Activities and Statistical Report; JNE Statistical Report: Proposed Receipt for Filing
- Council on Access & Fairness 2012 Year End Report
- Annual Reports from Committees for Oversight Purposes (Administration of Justice; Alternate Dispute Resolution; Appellate Courts; Federal Courts)
- Consideration of bills of others

July 18-19, 2013 – Thursday-Friday – Location TBD

October 10-13, 2013 – Thursday-Sunday – Annual Meeting – San Jose

- [No committee meetings planned]