

AGENDA ITEM

704 September 14 2014

DATE: September 9, 2014

TO: Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Thomas A. Miller, General Counsel
Dina E. Goldman, Supervising Sr. Asst. General Counsel

SUBJECT: Civil Justice Strategies Task Force (CJSTF) – Authorize Extension

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civil Justice Strategies Task Force (CJSTF) was created by the Board in November of 2013 to analyze the reasons for the existing “justice gap,” to evaluate the role of the legal profession in addressing the crisis, to seek the input of groups who have been working to expand access to justice to understand what efforts have worked and which have not been successful, to study creative solutions being considered in other states and other countries, and to develop proposed recommendations for steps that should be taken to fill the justice gap and achieve true access to justice in California. Under Board policy, a special committee created by the Board automatically ceases to exist upon completion of its assignment and is deemed dissolved at the Annual Meeting following its creation unless re-authorized by the Board. CJSTF is nearing completing of its work, but has meetings scheduled in October and November and will not be finished before the Annual Meeting. This item seeks Board approval to re-authorize and extend the term of CJSTF until the end of November to allow the Task Force to complete its work.

BACKGROUND

The Civil Justice Strategies Task Force (CJSTF) was created by the Board in November of 2013 to analyze the reasons for the existing “justice gap,” to evaluate the role of the legal profession in addressing the crisis, to seek the input of groups who have been working to expand access to justice to understand what efforts have worked and which have not been successful, to study creative solutions being considered in other states and other countries, and to develop proposed recommendations for steps that should be taken to fill the justice gap and achieve true access to justice in California.

Under Board policy, a special committee created by the Board automatically ceases to exist upon completion of its assignment and is deemed dissolved at the Annual Meeting following its creation unless re-authorized by the Board. Board policy states:

It shall be the policy of the board that the president, with the approval of the board, may appoint ad hoc or special committees to handle special assignments, any such committees automatically to cease to exist upon completion of its assignment.

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(6) Each Ad Hoc Committee shall be deemed dissolved as of the next State Bar Annual Meeting following its authorization, unless the board re-authorizes it.

Board Book tab 9, art. 1, § 3(b)(6).

CJSTF is nearing completion of its work, but has meetings scheduled in October and November and will not be finished before the Annual Meeting.

ISSUE

Should the Board re-authorize and extend the term of CJSTF until November 30, 2014 to allow the Task Force to complete its work?

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

Continued administrative costs and expense reimbursements related to the Task Force.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

N/A

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board re-authorize CJSTF until November 30, 2014 to allow the Task Force to complete its work.

PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION:

Should the Board concur with the recommendation, the following resolution would be in order:

RESOLVED, the Board hereby authorizes the Civil Justice Strategies Task Force to continue its activities until November 30, 2014.