

AGENDA ITEM

November 2014 III. A.

DATE: November 5, 2014

TO: Members, Audit Committee

FROM: Peggy Van Horn, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Discussion of Minority Outreach in Contracting and Procurement; Appointment of David Torres to Serve as Liaison

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of its 2014-2015 work plan, the Audit Committee plans to review the Bar's authority under existing law to engage in minority outreach in contracting and procurement and collaborate with the Planning and Budget Committee on potential policy development in this area. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a brief overview of the proposed approach to this project and seek Committee approval to appoint Audit Committee Vice Chair David Torres to serve as a liaison with the Planning and Budget Committee in developing a program of this nature.

Discussion

In 1996, Proposition 209 was approved by the voters of California. Among other things, this proposition eliminated practices used by many California governmental entities in public contracting that allowed for bid preferences for minority and women owned businesses. Prior to its adoption, the State Bar had a policy that provided for these preferences. After adoption, the Bar amended its contracting policies to exclude this practice.

As part of its 2014-2015 work plan, the Audit Committee wishes to explore the Bar's authority under existing law to engage in minority outreach efforts in procurement and contracting. Since this will be a joint project involving both the Audit and Planning Committees, the Audit Committee feels that it would be appropriate to designate a Committee member to liaise with the Planning Committee in this endeavor. Audit Committee Chair, Michael Colantuono recommends that Vice Chair David Torres be appointed to this role.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT: None.

BOARD BOOK/RULE AMENDMENTS IMPACT: None.

RESOLUTION:

Should the Audit Committee concur with this recommendation, the following resolution is in order:

RESOLVED that the Audit Committee appoints Committee Vice Chair David Torres to serve as a liaison to the Planning and Budget Committee in reviewing the Bar's authority under existing law to engage in minority outreach in contracting and procurement.