

# STAKEHOLDERS & ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM

## III.B. May 2016

**DATE:** April 28, 2016

**TO:** Members, Stakeholders & Access to Justice Committee

**FROM:** Phong Wong, Chair, SCDLS  
Kelli Evans, Senior Director Administration of Justice  
Sharon Ngim, Committee Coordinator, SCDLS

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report, Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS) 2014-2015

## BACKGROUND

SCDLS, established in December 1999, is a 20-member advisory committee to the Board of Trustees that works on increasing access to justice by identifying, developing and supporting ways to improve the delivery of legal services to low- and moderate-income individuals. Members represent a cross-section of attorneys from the legal aid, nonprofit, public interest and criminal indigent defense sectors, the private bar, and the courts. The work of the committee is focused on the following activities:

- Providing comments on State Bar, Judicial Council and legislative proposals within the subject matter expertise of the SCDLS members;
- Encouraging and increasing pro bono participation by law students and attorneys from all practice settings;
- Recognizing outstanding pro bono contributions and lifetime achievement for providing legal services to the indigent;
- Promoting effective legal services delivery systems for moderate-income Californians including limited scope representation, lawyer referral services, legal incubator projects and technology solutions;
- Developing specialized and MCLE trainings for legal aid advocates and attorneys serving pro bono and modest means clients; and
- Conducting outreach to disseminate information about the committee's work and to recruit future applicants for appointment to SCDLS.

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## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS) 2014-2015**

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In addition to conference calls by individual working groups, SCDLS held six full committee meetings:

- November 14, 2014 (San Francisco, new member orientation held same day)
- January 9, 2015 (video conference Los Angeles and San Francisco)
- March 27, 2015 (San Francisco)
- June 5, 2015 (in person San Francisco)
- August 7, 2015 (video conference Los Angeles and San Francisco)
- October 9, 2015 (Anaheim)

### **Commenting**

- Judicial Council Winter Proposals
  - W15-01** (Civil Forms: Notice of Application for Recognition and Entry of Tribal Court Money Judgment)
  - W15-03** (Court Interpreters: Request for Interpreter)
  - W15-08** (Military Service: Notification of Military Status)
- Judicial Council Spring Proposals
  - SPR15-03** (Appellate Procedure: Access to Electronic Appellate Court Records)
  - SPR15-12** (Telephone Appearances: Notice for Ex Parte Appearances and Notice Form)
  - SPR15-14** (Criminal Procedure: Petition and Order for Dismissal)
  - SPR15-15** (Criminal Procedure: Petition and Order for Dismissal [Military Personnel])
  - SPR15-16** (Domestic Violence – Request to Modify or Terminate Domestic Violence Restraining Orders; Family Law – Changes to Request for Order Rules and Forms)
  - SPR15-17** (Domestic Violence Law – Get Ready for the Restraining Order Court Hearing)
  - SPR15-19** (Family Law: New Form and Revisions to Forms for Stepparent and Additional-Parent Adoptions)
  - SPR15-28** (Special Immigrant Juvenile Predicate Findings)
  - SPR15-30** (Trial Court Management: Public Access to Administrative Decisions of Trial Courts)

SCDLS also submitted comments on the **TFARR Phase II Report Implementing Recommendation, Civil Justice Strategies Task Force Report Recommendations**, and the **MCLE Proposed Changes** to increase the total number of hours from 25 to 36 and to require that at least 12 hours be relevant to an attorney's practice area.

## **Moderate Income**

- Identified LRSs that provide moderate means service.
- Identified lack of moderate means panels in rural areas.
- Began work on producing a “Moderate Means in a Box” concept for use by LRSs.
- Re-established liaison relationships with the LRS community.

## **Pro Bono**

- Pro bono resource web pages from other states (Texas, NY, Florida and Illinois) were reviewed for ideas in updating the pro bono information on the State Bar’s website. Texas and New York websites serve as good models for California.
- SCDLS members Denise Asper and Phong Wong (Vice Chair) once again served as faculty members for the PLI program on Ethical Issues in California Pro Bono Representation on September 3. As a result of their participation, attorneys were recruited to do federal pro bono. This program has been scheduled for 2016 at PLI.
- A survey developed several years ago by the Bar Association of San Francisco of their solo and small firm members about attitudes toward pro bono and access to opportunities was reviewed, and input was provided for possible development of a future survey by SCDLS to members of the State Bar’s Solo and Small Firm Section.

## **Recognition and Awards**

- Conducted extensive and individualized outreach to solicit nominations for the 2015 Loren Miller Legal Services and President’s Pro Bono Service Awards.
- Reviewed and evaluated nominations, and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees for both awards, culminating in the awards presentation at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Award recipients are:

### **President’s Pro Bono Service Awards**

Recently Admitted: **Nicole J. Heffel** (San Diego)  
Solo Practitioner: **Shahpour “Shawn” M. Matloob** (San Francisco)  
Limited Active Practice: **Ophelia H. Zeff** (Sacramento)  
Individual from a Law Firm: **Sarah E. Powell** (San Bernardino)  
Individual from a Law Firm: **Michael E. Soloff** (Los Angeles)  
Law Firm Branch Office: **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP Orange County Office** (Irvine)  
Law Firm Team: **Arnold & Porter LLP Fresno Homeless Litigation Team** (Los Angeles, Palo Alto and San Francisco)  
Law Firm Team: **Cooley LLP Voluntary Departure Team** (San Diego)  
Distinguished Pro Bono Service: **Los Angeles HIV Law and Policy Project**

Loren Miller Legal Services Award: **Chris A. Schneider** (Fresno)

## **Recruitment/Appointments**

- Recruited, assessed, interviewed, ranked and recommended applicants for appointment. The new members are:

- Scott Barnes, Santa Ana (Legal Aid Society of Orange County)
- David Daniels, Los Angeles (Public Counsel)
- Anna Ferrari, San Francisco (Morrison & Foerster)
- Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi, San Diego (San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program)
- Evonne Silva, San Francisco (ACLU of Northern CA)
- Paulette Ward, San Bernardino (Office of the Public Defender)

[Note: A seventh applicant was appointed but due to unforeseen circumstances had to decline two months later.]

## **Training**

A total of seven trainings were developed and presented:

- Foreclosure Litigation: PLI program, SCDLS members Kent Qian and Stephen Hicklin served as faculty members.
- California Guardianship Law: Co-sponsored with PLI.
- Representing Clients with Mental Disabilities and Challenging Behaviors: PLI program, SCDLS member Sharon Djemal served as faculty chair.
- Ethical Issues in CA Pro Bono Representation: PLI program, members Phong Wong (Vice Chair) and Denise Asper served as faculty members.
- Fourth annual Training-of-Trainers presented in Los Angeles and co-sponsored with PLI.
- Unbundling in Bankruptcy and Consumer Law: Annual Meeting program, one former SCDLS member served as a panelist (co-sponsored with the Access to Justice Commission).
- Introducing Social Media into Evidence: Annual Meeting program, one former SCDLS member and one current SCDLS member, Ben Salorio, served as panelists.

In addition, Maria Livingston (SCDLS Chair) and Phong Wong (SCDLS Vice Chair), and several former SCDLS members were active participants in the 2015 Pathways to Justice Conference planning committee. More than 100 training proposals were vetted and a total of 42 trainings were offered at the conference.