

**PARTNERSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE
LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION**

Friday, June 28, 2019

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Held via video conference, in person and conference call

State Bar of California

San Francisco and Los Angeles locations

MEETING NOTES AND ACTION SUMMARY

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

The following committee members and advisors were present:

- In San Francisco: Louise Bayles-Fightmaster, Christian Schreiber
- In Los Angeles: Susan Ryan, Christina Vanarelli
- On the Telephone: Kim Bartleson, Justice William Murray

The following staff were present in San Francisco: Rocio Avalos, Elizabeth Hom, Hellen Hong, Rodney Low, Daniel Passamaneck

The following liaisons and guests were present:

- In San Francisco: Salena Copeland, Bonnie Hough
- On the Telephone: Debbie Y. Manning (Board of Trustees)

II. Call for Public Comment

Chair Christina Vanarelli inquired if there was any member of the public wishing to make public comment. No comments were offered by members of the public.

III. Discussion and Action Items

A. Review and discuss 39 proposals for Partnership Grant funding for grant year 2020

Staff reported \$2,621,704 of grant funds for distribution in 2020, including \$2,559,990 of direct funding through the Budget Act, and \$61,714 of returned funds from previous grant years that were unspent. The thirty-nine proposals under review request a total of \$3,069,272 in funding. Discussion included consideration of an appropriate funding range for each proposal, subject to

further staff research and resolution of any outstanding questions. These funding ranges will be reconsidered and possibly revised at this Committee's July 19 meeting, prior to being presented to the full Commission as formal recommendations.

B. Discuss and approve recommendations for criteria to review Partnership Grant proposals for grant year 2020

Staff reported on grant review issues raised by the working groups' application review. The Committee considered two issues raised for discussion and recommendation.

Funding Beyond an Initial 5-year Period

Partnership Grants have been primarily considered "seed money" to support new services. There was a discussion about projects requesting funding beyond the initial 5-year period. The Committee determined that rural projects seeking funding beyond a fifth year should be considered together with new requests for funding to ensure appropriate prioritization for funding opportunities.

The Committee approved (Schreiber moved, Bartleson seconded) by roll call vote that Partnership Grant funding shall be primarily targeted to the support of new projects and to sustain services to self-represented litigants in rural areas.

Funding of Mediation Services through Partnership Grants

Mediation services have been supported by Partnership Grant funds previously; however, staff raised the issue that mediation services do not necessarily fall under the definition of "legal services" as defined at State Bar Rule 3.672(A). Bonnie Hough from the Judicial Council explained that the courts view these services as supervised settlement services instead of as general mediation services.

The Committee approved (Bayles-Fightmaster moved, Ryan seconded) by roll call vote that supervised settlement services to assist litigants in settling their litigation as a permissible activity to be funded by a Partnership Grant, so long as the settlement services are a component of court-based litigation and are overseen by an attorney.

C. Develop tentative recommendations for funding

The Committee determined tentative recommendations for funding, and requested staff follow up with applicants to resolve specific issues.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.