

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

Notes and Action Summary

Friday, July 19, 2019, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Videoconference

State Bar of California in Los Angeles and San Francisco

Roll Call

Commission Members

Co-Chair Corey N. Friedman
Co-Chair Christian Schreiber
Banafsheh Akhlaghi
Amin Al-Sarraf
Kim Bartleson
Pamela Bennett
Erica Connolly
Prof. Rebecca Delfino
J. Eric Isken
Prof. James Meeker
Robert Planthold
Richard Reinis
Susan Ryan
Melanie Snider
Christina Vanarelli

Commission Advisors

Hon. Lisa R. Jaskol
Hon. William J. Murray, Jr.
Hon. Brad Seligman

Liaisons

Salena Copeland
Bonnie Hough
Debbie Manning

Staff

Rocío Avalos
Christal Bundang
Brady Dewar
Donna Hershkowitz
Elizabeth Hom
Hellen Hong
Dan Passamaneck
Greg Shin

The meeting was called to order at 1:03pm.

OPEN SESSION

I. CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and quorum was established.

B. Call for Public Comment

No comments were offered by members of the public.

II. CONSENT

A. Approval of Action Summary from May 10, 2019 Meeting

The Commission made a motion to approve the May 10, 2019 action summary. Robert Planthold moved and Corey Friedman seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

III. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A. Discuss Board of Trustees Actions Related to LSTFC Activities

Hellen Hong reported that the Board of Trustees (BOT) met on July 11, and approved the distribution of \$55,581,082 in IOLTA grants for the 2020 calendar year, while setting aside a reserve of \$29,491,209. The BOT requested additional information regarding the IOLTA and bank recertification process, which will be presented to the Programs Committee at the end of July.

B. Discuss New \$20M Equal Access Funding (EAF) for Homelessness Prevention Legal Services

Hellen Hong and Greg Shin reported that on June 15, the Governor included an additional \$20 million in EAF for homelessness prevention legal services. Of the \$20 million, \$15 million will be distributed by formula to eligible 2019 IOLTA/EAF qualified legal service projects (QLSPs) and support centers (SCs) based on certain criteria in the Budget bill, and \$5 million will be distributed by RFP.

On June 21, State Bar staff sent a three question survey to all QLSPs and SCs to gauge their interest in this funding. Of the 92 organizations that responded, 80 expressed preliminary interest and 12 declined interest. State Bar staff calculated an estimated grant award range of \$50,000 to \$1.48 million for the various organizations. July 26 is the deadline for QLSPs and SCs to submit an application to ensure distribution of funds in September 2019

C. Discuss Process to Codify Grant Administration Practices

Hellen Hong presented an overview of grant administration practices to directors at Legal Services Corporation-funded organizations and directors of all IOLTA funded organizations who attended Pathways to Justice. There was a discussion about the need for transparency, which will be addressed through the codification process.

The Executive Committee created a Rules Committee tasked with codifying grant administration practices. Staff and the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) will do an initial review and present recommendations to the Rules Committee. Members are welcome to attend these meetings to give input and lend expertise. The process will also allow for public comment.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Bank Grants Committee's Recommendation on 2018-2020 Grant Award Adjustments

Melanie Snider reported that three organizations had unspent funds but did not submit a carryover request or budget modification— Impact Fund (\$38,976), La Raza Centro Legal (\$25,000) and National Center for Youth Law (\$7,342).

The Commission made a motion to approve the Bank Grant Committee's recommendation that unused funds in Year 1 will be recovered by reducing the distribution for Year 2 by the unspent amount for the following organizations - Impact Fund, La Raza Centro Legal, and National Center for Youth Law. Robert Planthold moved and Kim Bartleson seconded. The motion was approved by roll call vote with an abstention from Christian Schreiber.

B. Approval of Partnership Grants Committee's Recommendation for Criteria to Review 2020 Partnership Grants Applications

Christina Vanarelli provided an update from the Partnership Grants Committee meeting.

The Commission made a motion to approve the Partnership Grants Committee's recommendation that rural projects seeking funding beyond a fifth year should be considered together with new projects for funding to ensure appropriate prioritization for funding opportunities. Other projects will not be considered beyond the fifth year unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Robert Planthold moved and Banafsheh Akhlaghi seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission made a motion to approve the Partnership Grants Committee's recommendation to allow 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 overseen by an attorney. Melanie Snider moved and Pamela Bennett seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of Partnership Grants Committee's Funding Recommendations for 2020 Partnership Grants Funding

Christina Vanarelli reported that the Partnership Grants Committee reviewed 39 proposals and recommended funding for 38 projects. Bay Area Legal Aid was not recommended for funding, as it requested funding beyond five years.

The Commission made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Partnership Grants Committee for 2020 Partnership Grants Funding (as attached). Melanie Snider moved and Corey Freidman seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote with the following abstentions: Amin Al-Sarraf (Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles), J. Eric Isken (Bet Tzedek), Prof. James Meeker (Public Law Center), Robert Planthold (Bay Area Legal Aid), and Susan Ryan (Riverside Legal Aid).

D. Approval for LSTFC Executive Committee to have Delegated Authority for the Distribution of the \$20M EAF Homelessness Prevention Funding

The Commission made a motion to delegate authority to the Executive Committee regarding the distribution of the \$20 million EAF homelessness prevention funding. Corey Friedman moved and Robert Planthold seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

V. STAFF UPDATES ON GRANT ADMINISTRATION

A. Updates on 2020 Partnership Grants

No additional staff updates.

B. Update on 2020 Bank Grants

Staff reported that \$6.5 million will be distributed for the 2020 Bank Grant cycle. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission in November.

C. Update on 2020 IOLTA and EAF Applications

Staff received 103 applications (81 from QLSPs and 22 from SCs). Of the 98 applications received last year, 97 organizations reapplied. Senior Citizens Legal Services did not reapply.

Staff also received six new applications which were reviewed by the Eligibility & Budget Review Committee with the following recommendations: Community Lawyers Inc. (Not Eligible); Dependency Advocacy Center (Eligibility Review Conference); Eviction Defense (Eligible); HEART LA (follow-up questions only); Open Door Legal (Withdrew Application); Women's Employment Rights Clinic of Golden Gate University (Withdrew Application)

The Committee will hold six Eligibility Review Conferences before August 8 and present its recommendations at the August 23 Commission meeting.

D. Update on 2019 Monitoring Visits Schedule

Staff completed 17 monitoring visits in 2019 and has 18 visits remaining. Commission members are encouraged to attend a monitoring visit. Staff will send a reminder email following the meeting.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. LSTFC Related Updates from Judicial Council

Bonnie Hough reported that Judicial Council is working to distribute the \$20 million EAF homelessness prevention funding with the State Bar, and working on getting an additional one-time funding of \$2.5 million for Shriver projects. The Governor's budget also has \$20 million for juvenile dependency counsel.

B. LSTFC Related Updates from Legal Aid Association of California.

Salena Copeland reported that LAAC is coordinating Legal Aid Day to help educate the Legislature about legal aid and the importance of legal aid attorney intervention. LAAC will be updating its 2010 recruitment and retention report. Part of these efforts includes surveys to current/former legal aid attorneys and conducting focus groups of law students who are interns at legal aid organizations and law firms with a significant pro bono commitment. LAAC suggests periodic surveys to identify ongoing trends in legal aid.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.

PARTNERSHIP GRANT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS FOR GRANT YEAR 2020

PROGRAM	PROJECT	Amount Requested	Final Recommendation
Bay Area Legal Aid	San Mateo County Consumer (Debt) Clinic	\$60,000	\$0
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Self-Help Elder and Dependent Adult Restraining Order Clinic	\$80,000	\$80,000
Central California Legal Services	Guardianship Project	\$70,533	\$70,000
Central California Legal Services	Tenant/Landlord Housing Law Project	\$71,042	\$71,000
Central California Legal Services	Tulare County Unlawful Detainer Workshop	\$69,443	\$70,000
Community Legal Aid - SoCal	Consumer Debt Workshop (Norwalk)	\$36,975	\$37,000
Community Legal Aid - SoCal	Orange County Community Court Clinic	\$29,379	\$29,000
Community Legal Aid - SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Workshop	\$47,988	\$48,000
Community Legal Aid - SoCal	Unlawful Detainer Workshop at Norwalk	\$59,271	\$59,000
East Bay Community Law Center	Traffic Flash Clinic	\$50,000	\$44,000
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Unlawful Detainer/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Self-Help Clinic	\$68,000	\$68,000
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per Project	\$25,000	\$25,000

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	Partnership Shriver Grant	\$103,000	\$96,000
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Probate Clinic	\$121,112	\$120,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar	FLASH-CARE	\$60,000	\$50,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar	Shriver-SASH Self-Help	\$110,000	\$70,000
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project	\$91,196	\$91,000
Legal Access Alameda	Alameda County Family Law Day of Court Project	\$30,000	\$30,000
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference Project	\$65,000	\$65,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self-Help Center	\$100,000	\$100,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership (Lompoc & Santa Barbara)	\$114,587	\$110,000
Legal Aid of Marin	Community Court Expansion	\$80,000	\$80,000
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers Accessing Justice	\$85,000	\$85,000
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	Name Change & Gender Change Self-Help Clinic	\$85,000	\$85,000
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	Unlawful Detainer Clinic Expansion (Shriver)	\$100,000	\$80,000
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants	\$65,000	\$50,000
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants	\$98,041	\$60,000
Legal Services of Northern California	Mother Lode Pro Per Project	\$85,000	\$98,000
Legal Services of Northern California	Yolo Small Claims, Guardianship, and Shriver Housing	\$85,000	\$85,000
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Family Law Information for Parents	\$104,200	\$90,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	Chatsworth Self-Help Legal Access Center	\$100,000	\$75,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	Pasadena Unlawful Detainer Assistance Project	\$144,500	\$50,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	Shriver Los Angeles Self-Help Center	\$140,000	\$90,000

Public Counsel	Guardianship Clinic	\$60,000	\$30,000
Public Law Center	De Facto & Adoptive Parent Assistance Project	\$50,000	\$50,000
Public Law Center	Orange County Courthouse Guardianship Clinic	\$60,000	\$60,000
Riverside Legal Aid	Small Estates Assistance Program	\$105,005	\$105,000
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.	Central Division Restraining Order Clinic	\$100,000	\$100,000
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	Consumer Debt Clinic	\$60,000	\$60,000

TOTAL REQUESTED:

\$3,069,272

TOTAL ALLOCATED:

\$2,666,000

Total amount available for
allocation:

\$2,666,533

Amount not allocated:

\$533