

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Notes and Action Summary

Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Video Conference

Disability Rights California offices: Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco

Roll Call

Commissioners

Judge Mark Juhas
Catherine Blakemore
John Adkins
Beverly Cole
Judge Timothy Dillon
Amos Hartston
Judge James Herman
Janis Hirohama
Judge Lisa Jaskol
Michael Levy
Panida Rzonca
Dennis Saab

Public

David Daniels
Diana Flores
Naomi Moran
Shumika Sookdeo

Liaisons

Salena Copeland
Neil Gupta
Lorin Kline
Bonnie Hough

Ex Officio

Judge Steve Austin
Justice Earl Johnson
Jim Meeker
Justice Ron Robie
Toby Rothschild
Justice Laurie Zelon

Board of Trustees

Debbie Manning

Staff

Donna Hershkowitz
Elizabeth Hom

I. Chair's Report

A. Roll Call

Judge Juhas called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

B. Call for Public Comment

Judge Juhas invited any member of the public to comment on any items on the agenda. No member of the public requested time for public comment.

II. Consent

A. Approval of Action Summary from April 26, 2019

The Commission approved by roll call vote (Jaskol moved, Blakemore seconded) the action summary from April 26, 2019.

III. State Bar Reports

A. Report on State Bar Developments

Program Supervisor Elizabeth Hom reported on the Pathways to Justice Conference held from June 3-5 in San Francisco. Elizabeth acknowledged and thanked the Judicial Council staff and Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) staff for their partnership in producing a successful conference.

Chief of Programs Donna Hershkowitz reported that there is an additional \$20 million in EAF funds allocated in the Governor's budget for homeless prevention services. The State Bar and Judicial Council are working diligently to distribute the funds quickly. The first \$15 million will be distributed by formula in September. The remaining \$5 million will be distributed pursuant to a request for proposals. Vice Chair Catherine Blakemore expressed appreciation on behalf of the Commission to the State Bar and Judicial Council staff for their work on this. Donna also reported on the Legislative analyst audit which would be available on July 1, and that there is \$2.5 million allocated in the State budget for Shriver project funding.

IV. Discussion

A. Update and discussion on CCAJ Transition from State Bar

Judge Juhas and Catherine Blakemore distributed a memorandum, "Update and Next Steps (Action,)" dated June 20, 2019. Judge Juhas reported on efforts from Commissioners and other CCAJ supporters to obtain funding for the CCAJ through the Governor's budget. Though efforts were not successful for the current budget year, CCAJ leadership is optimistic about future funding opportunities, and continues to work with the Legislature and others to explore options. CCAJ leadership is also working with the State Bar transition team on a Memorandum of Understanding. Pro bono counsel are drafting governance documents to establish CCAJ as an independent entity.

Judge Juhas encouraged CCAJ committees to meet in August and September to discuss 2020 plans and projects, and to be prepared to report out at the October 1 CCAJ meeting.

The Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote (Levy moved, Juhas seconded) a motion to:

1. Approve establishing the California Commission on Access to Justice as a tax-exempt, not for profit corporation and authorize the CCAJ Executive Committee to approve any necessary paperwork including Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and documents to establish tax-exempt status;
2. Continue transition work with the State Bar and authorize the CCAJ Executive Committee to approve funding, contract deliverables, access commission deliverables, and other transition items as it deems appropriate;
3. Authorize the CCAJ Executive Committee to secure other sources of funding;

4. Authorize the CCAJ Executive Committee to enter into agreements with other organizations to act as a fiscal agent and provide staffing and other support as may be needed during the transition period; and
5. Authorize any other action that is reasonably necessary or prudent to effectuate transition.

Ex officio members that were present, Justice Laurie Zelon, Justice Earl Johnson, Toby Rothschild, Jim Meeker, Judge Steve Austin, and Justice Ron Robie also expressed their support for the Commission's action.

B. 2019 Work Plan

i. Rural Task Force Policy Papers

Commissioner Lisa Pruitt acknowledged her research assistants, including Diana Flores and Naomi Moran who were present, for their work on the policy papers. The two briefs, "California's Attorney Deserts: Access to Justice Implications of the Rural Lawyer Shortage" and "Disasters in Rural California: The Impact on Access to Justice" will be published shortly. Lisa reported that two policy briefs on rural housing and the use of technology in rural areas may be ready by the October 1 meeting. Rural Task Force Co-Chair Salena Copeland reported that an additional policy paper on rural transportation issues with a focus on disability access is planned for 2020.

ii. Successful Business Planning for the Modern Law Practice Guide (Colorado adaption)

Elizabeth reported that the Successful Business Planning for the Modern Law Practice Guide, which is a guide for attorneys with modest means practices, is in the final stages of editing, and would be ready for CCAJ approval at the October 1 meeting.

iii. Justice Gap Study

Donna provided an update on the Justice Gap Study, which is on track for a December 31 release date. State Bar grantees participated in an intake census on turn away rates, and staff are now evaluating the data. Law students with current connection to legal aid are being surveyed now. Additional law student surveys will be distributed at the beginning of the law school year, and LAAC will conduct law student focus groups. There will be a phase 2 of the Justice Gap survey to gather and evaluate more information from monolingual language speakers other English and Spanish. Donna expressed appreciation to Jim Meeker for his insight and feedback on the Justice Gap Study.

C. Discussion and Approval of Feedback on the State Bar Access to Justice Framework

There was a discussion on the State Bar's Access to Justice framework. Commissioner Mike Levy will draft a response on behalf of the Commission

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is an in-person meeting on October 1, 2019 at the State Bar office in San Francisco.

VI. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.