

November 7, 2019

Sonia Delen, Programs Liaison
Brandon Stallings, Programs Liaison
Hailyn Chen, Diversity Liaison
The State Bar of California
Board of Trustees

Re: Expansion of COAF's Mission Statement

Dear Sonia, Brandon, and Hailyn:

The Council on Access and Fairness (COAF) is honored that the State Bar Board of Trustees (BOT) has entrusted to COAF a major role in carrying out diversity and inclusion initiatives in the BOT's Strategic Plan. Currently, COAF's initiatives focus on the portion of the pipeline to the profession that begins at the law school level. COAF is concerned that this limitation hampers realization of the goal of diversifying the profession because it misses important opportunities to encourage and support underrepresented high school and college students who may be interested in entering the legal profession.

At its September 25, 2019 meeting, COAF unanimously passed a motion to recommend that the BOT amend COAF's mission statement in the following respects: (1) To include advancement of programs and initiatives at both the high school and college levels; (2) To permit COAF to engage with and support California LAW efforts; (3) To permit COAF to appoint a COAF member to serve as liaison to California LAW; (4) To permit COAF to serve as a resource for Law Partnership Academies' Advisory Council volunteers; and (5) To permit COAF to organize presentations to underrepresented high school and college students on the path to becoming an attorney.

COAF members are eager to support this expanded mission. We hope you will favorably consider our request, and look forward to further discussions with the BOT.

Sincerely,

Hon. Brenda Harbin-Forte
COAF Chair