

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Meeting

Tuesday December 17, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call and State Bar of California, 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA

NOTES AND ACTION SUMMARY

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Attendance was confirmed by roll call; all participation was by telephone unless otherwise indicated.

Commission Members

Banafsheh Akhlaghi
J. Eric Isken
Amin Al-Sarraf
Kim Bartleson
Louise Bayles-Fightmaster
Pamela Bennett
Will Boschelli
Erica Connolly
Herman L. DeBose
Rebecca Delfino
Corey N. Friedman
James Meeker
Debra Meyers
Bob Planthold
Susan Ryan
Kim Savage
Christian Schreiber
Christina Vanarelli

Advisors

Judge Lisa R. Jaskol
Justice William J. Murray, Jr.
Judge Brad Seligman

State Bar Staff

Hellen Hong
Rocio Avalos
Erica Carroll
Brady Dewar
Elizabeth Hom
Doan Nguyen
Dan Passamaneck

Liaisons/Presenters

Salena Copeland (LAAC liaison)
Bonnie Hough (Judicial Council liaison)
Debbie Manning (Board of Trustees liaison)

Public

Scott Garner (counsel for Veterans Legal Institute)

Quorum was confirmed. Trust Fund Commission Chair Akhlaghi led the meeting.

II. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered by members of the public at this time.

III. CONSENT

A. APPROVAL OF ACTION SUMMARY FROM NOVEMBER 22, 2019 MEETING

The Trust Fund Commission approved by roll call vote the action summary from the November 22, 2019 meeting. The vote was unanimous with Meyers and Schreiber abstaining. (Bartleson moved, Isken seconded)

Item IV, "Pending Appeals of Denials of Eligibility for 2020 IOLTA and EAF Funding," was deferred until after closed session.

At 10:15 the Trust Fund Commission entered Closed Session.

At 11:55 the Trust Fund Commission returned to Open Session.

IV: PENDING APPEALS OF DENIALS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2020 IOLTA AND EAF FUNDING

At the Chair's request, Dan Passamaneck read out the three motions approved during closed session:

Regarding Veteran's Legal Institute (VLI), the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission:

- Accepts VLI's initial application and finds VLI to be eligible for 2020 IOLTA and EAF grant funding; and
- Directs staff to identify the proper allocation of grant funds for VLI based on review of materials to be provided by VLI no later than January 10, 2020, for review and approval of the Trust Fund Commission at a meeting to be held in January 2020.

Regarding Senior Citizens Legal Services (SCLS), the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission:

- Accepts the application and audit of SCLS for consideration of eligibility for 2020 grants despite having been submitted late due to extraordinary circumstances relating to the health challenges of the Executive Director; and
- Directs staff to communicate with the organization to obtain any additional information needed to develop a recommendation regarding eligibility and grant allocations, for the consideration of the full Trust Fund Commission at a meeting to be held in January 2020.

Regarding the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB), the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission directs staff to inform LASSB that due to serious concerns regarding their eligibility for grants, the State Bar shall freeze all payments to this organization pending a further meeting of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission in January 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.