



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

54-111 MARCH 2020

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE III.A

DATE: March 12, 2020

TO: Members, Board Executive Committee
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Mark Broughton, Appointments Liaison, Board Executive Committee
Juan De La Cruz, Appointments Liaison, Board Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee – Appointment of Member

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item presents the candidate recommended for appointment to the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee (Committee) to fill the one currently vacant position.

BACKGROUND

The Committee oversees the operation of the Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) as necessary to establish policies, practices, and procedures to support the goal of offering education and rehabilitative programs to attorneys, former attorneys, State Bar applicants, and law students suffering from substance use and mental health disorders.

Pursuant to statute, the Board appoints six members to the twelve-member Committee. By statute, the six State Bar appointments must include:

- Two members who are licensed mental health professionals with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness;
- One member who is a physician with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse;

- One member of the board of directors of a statewide nonprofit organization established for the purpose of assisting lawyers with alcohol or substance abuse problems, which has been in continuous operation for a minimum of five years; and
- Two members who are lawyers, at least one of whom is in recovery and has at least five years of continuous sobriety.

Currently, of the Board appointed positions, the only open position is for a licensed mental health professional with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness.

DISCUSSION

The candidate recommended for appointment is Dr. Stephanie Patterson.

Dr. Patterson is a board-certified psychiatric nurse practitioner with experience treating both mental health and substance use disorders. She is familiar with the attorney and law student population, having earned a J.D. in 2011. Additionally, she has experience serving on volunteer boards and committees, having served on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Policy Committee, the Board of Directors of I-Help Foundation, and on the Board of the Council of Black Nurses.

Dr. Patterson has been made aware that the State Bar is continuing to pursue legislative support for the transition of the LAP to the California Lawyers Association. At such time as that transition occurs, the LAP Oversight Committee of the State Bar will sunset. Therefore, although she is being recommended for a four-year term, her term may actually only extend for one year.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal: None - core business operations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Board Executive Committee concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Stephanie Patterson to serve on the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee for a four-year term as a “member who is a licensed mental health professional with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness.”

Should the Board of Trustees concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approves the recommended appointment for a member of the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

None