



# The State Bar *of California*

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## **OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM 50-8 JULY 2020**

**DATE:** July 16, 2020

**TO:** Members, Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Linda Katz, Principal Analyst, Mission Advancement & Accountability Division

**SUBJECT:** California Paraprofessional Program Working Group – Appointment of Members

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At its March 12, 2020, meeting the Board of Trustees approved the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group (CPPWG) charter, appointed members to the CPPWG, and provided authority to the CPPWG Chair to fill vacant appointment slots based on anticipated appointments from identified stakeholders. Since that meeting, some vacancies have been filled; this agenda item requests that the Board provide the CPPWG Chair with the authority to fill the two remaining vacant slots based on nominations from stakeholders other than those specified in the March 12, 2020, agenda item.

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### **BACKGROUND**

At its January 24, 2020, meeting, the Board of Trustees established the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group (CPPWG), and directed staff to develop a charter, identify the appropriate size and composition of the working group, and solicit interest in participation in the working group. At its March 12, 2020, meeting the Board approved a charter, appointed members, and authorized the Board-appointed Chair, Chris Iglesias, to fill the remaining vacant slots. While most of the stakeholders identified in the March agenda item nominated members to the CPPWG, there are two remaining vacancies. The current working group composition is lacking in racial/ethnic diversity and direct consumer voice. This item seeks Board approval for flexibility in filling the remaining vacancies, with a particular goal of addressing identified gaps in current CPPWG membership.

## **DISCUSSION**

The CPPWG's two remaining vacancies were intended to be filled by nominees identified by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has not nominated a representative to the CPPWG. While staff has been in communication with the DCA, which hopes to identify a nominee for the CPPWG, it is not certain that such a nomination will be made. The CPPWG would benefit from a full complement of members; this agenda item seeks flexibility in filling the remaining vacancies on the CPPWG, specifically by eliminating the requirement that the remaining vacancies be filled by nominees of the Senate Judiciary Committee and DCA. If afforded this flexibility, the chair will make efforts to use the remaining appointments to increase the diversity of the CPPWG.

## **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: 4. Support access to legal services for low- and moderate-income Californians and promote policies and programs to eliminate bias and promote an inclusive environment in the legal system and for the public it serves, and strive to achieve a statewide attorney population that reflects the rich demographics of the state's population.

Objective: f. No later than July 31, 2021, explore options to increase access through licensing of paraprofessionals, limited license legal technicians, and other paraprofessionals.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees authorize the Chair of the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group to appoint members to fill the remaining two vacancies on the CPPWG.

## **ATTACHMENT(S) LIST**

None