



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM 704 NOVEMBER 2020

DATE: November 19, 2020

TO: Members, Board of Trustees

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

SUBJECT: Appointment of Chair for California Paraprofessional Program Working Group

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. At its July 16, 2020, meeting, the Board provided the CPPWG chair with the authority to fill two vacant slots. This item requests that the Board (1) appoint a new chair to replace the former chair; (2) expand the size of the CPPWG; (3) provide the newly appointed chair with the authority to fill the additional slots on the CPPWG; and (4) extend the deadline for the CPPWG to provide its final report and recommendations to the Board.

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. At its July 16, 2020, meeting, the Board authorized the chair of the working group to fill the two vacant positions, with a goal of addressing an identified lack of racial/ethnic diversity and direct consumer voice; one of these positions has since been filled by a consumer.

DISCUSSION

Former Trustee Chris Iglesias served as Chair of the CPPWG. Mr. Iglesias's term on the Board ended, and due to significant issues competing for his time, Mr. Iglesias was not able to seek a second term. As a result, Mr. Iglesias also was unable to continue as chair of the working group. After consultation with Board leadership and the Supreme Court, staff recommends appointing Justice Ioana Petrou, of the First District Court of Appeal to serve as chair. Prior to her appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice Petrou served as a Judge of the Alameda Superior Court, presiding over family, criminal, unlimited civil, and complex civil assignments. In addition to serving on the Court of Appeal, Justice Petrou teaches trial practice at Berkeley Law. In addition to this appointment, this agenda item seeks flexibility to expand the number of seats on the CPPWG by as many as five, to include, for example, additional Superior Court judicial officers who preside over cases in the practice areas under consideration for the paraprofessional program by the CPPWG, representatives of legal services organization that assist parties in such cases, and additional voices of legal consumers.

Although the CPPWG is moving forward at an impressive pace, the transition to a new chair and the need to resolve certain core issues necessitate a slight extension in the final date to submit the CPPWG's report and recommendations to the Board. This item requests an extension from July 31, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

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 appoints Justice Ioana Petrou as Chair of the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the expansion of the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group with the addition of up to five new slots, and delegates to the Chair of the Working Group the authority to appoint up to five additional members; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves an amended due date of September 30, 2021, for submission of the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group final report and direct staff to update Goal 4, objective f. of the State Bar's 2017–2022 Strategic Plan accordingly.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

None