



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM 50-5 JULY 2022

DATE: July 21, 2022

TO: Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Lisa Chavez, Director, Office of Research & Institutional Accountability

SUBJECT: Approval of Extension to Submit Final Report of the Ad Hoc Commission on Discipline System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board of Trustees established the Ad Hoc Commission on the Discipline System (AHCDS) at its meeting on November 19, 2020. The Board charged the commission with reviewing an extensive portfolio of initiatives, policies, and procedures the State Bar has implemented over the last several years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the attorney discipline system and issuing a final report with recommendations for additional or revised reforms by June 30, 2022. This item requests that the Board extend the deadline for receipt of the final report to September 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the State Bar has implemented dozens of initiatives, policies, and procedures to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the attorney discipline system. Given these wide-ranging and ambitious efforts, ongoing concerns about the efficacy of the discipline system, and a 2019 report on racial disparities in that system, the Board determined that a comprehensive examination and review of reforms and initiatives to date should be conducted, and it established an AHCDS to support that work.

The 26-member commission began its work in April 2021. The timeline for the effort outlined in the charter has proven to be overly ambitious, given the complexity of the work involved, the number of subcommittees and working groups established to address the volume and scope of effort required, and the challenges in achieving required quorums.

DISCUSSION

The work of the commission is behind schedule but is progressing; the commission adopted several recommendations at its meeting on June 1, 2022, and will discuss and approve its final report at its final meeting scheduled in August. Based on the recommendation and report status at this time, an extension of the due date for the final commission work product is requested.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Updates are being made to this section of the agenda item template to reflect the 2022–2027 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees extends the deadline for receipt of the Ad Hoc Commission on the Discipline System's final report to September 30, 2022.

ATTACHMENT LIST

None