



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM DECEMBER 2022 II.A BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: December 22, 2022

TO: Members, Board Executive Committee

FROM: Leah Wilson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Amendment to ChangeLawyers Donation on the Annual Fee Statement to Correct an Error in the November 17, 2022, Statement of Charges and Fees Agenda Item

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ChangeLawyers was founded in 1989 by the State Bar of California as California Bar Foundation. In 2015, California Bar Foundation became an independent organization and in 2018, it changed its name to California ChangeLawyers. Since 1991, the State Bar has included on its annual fee statement a line recommending a donation to the organization. Currently, the suggested donation is \$75. For 2023, ChangeLawyers is requesting that the suggested amount be increased to \$95. This request was initiated early this year and was inadvertently omitted from the November 17, 2022, agenda item that sought the Board's approval for 2023 billing cycle and fee statement details.

BACKGROUND

California ChangeLawyers (formerly California Bar Foundation) is a community foundation whose mission is to build a better justice system for all Californians. Committed to the belief that a state as diverse as California needs a justice system led by advocates of all ethnicities and races, ChangeLawyers empowers the next generation of future leaders through scholarships, public interest fellowships, mentorship, and trainings. The organization also provides grants to nonprofit organizations that are increasing access to justice.

Since its inception, ChangeLawyers has received part of its funding through a recommended voluntary donation line that appears on the annual State Bar's fee statement for licensing fees.

For the 2015 bill year, the suggested donation was increased from \$50 to \$75, and has stayed at \$75 since then. For 2023, ChangeLawyers is requesting that the suggested amount listed on the fee statement be increased to \$95.

DISCUSSION

Proposed details related to the 2023 fee statement, including updates to the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines for licensing and other regulatory fees were presented to the Board in November. Due to a staff oversight, the request from ChangeLawyers to increase the recommended donation amount list on the statement, originally submitted earlier this year, was inadvertently omitted from our fall preparations for the 2023 bill year.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the State Bar, as any donations collected are remitted to California ChangeLawyers. The cost of making the necessary programming changes to increase the suggested amount that appears online and on any pdfs of the State Bar fee statement will be absorbed by the existing operational budget.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee approves the increase from \$75 to \$95 of the suggested donation for California ChangeLawyers, as it appears on the State Bar's annual fee statement, effective immediately.

ATTACHMENT LIST

None