



# The State Bar of California

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## Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Law School Fellowship Grants Committee Meeting Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Monday, January 23, 2023  
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:**

The LSTFC Law School Fellowship Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 4:09 p.m.

**Time Meeting Adjourned:**

4:50 p.m.

**Chair:**

Banafsheh Akhlaghi

**Committee Coordinator:**

Elizabeth Hom

**Members Present:**

Venetta Campbell, Novella Coleman, Judge Kristin Rosi

**Members Absent:**

None

### OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

The LSTFC Law School Fellowship Grants Committee was called to order by Chair Akhlaghi.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

3. Call for Public Comment

Chair Akhlaghi called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. 3.1. Comments were made from the following public members:

- Kristen Boney from Legal Assistance with Seniors expressed support for the option to compensate each fellow at \$7,500 because it will provide summer funding to a larger number of legal interns and will allow interns at the same organization to have similar amounts of funding available to them.
- Skip Keonig from Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles expressed support for the option to compensate each fellow at \$7,500 because it is a realistic amount for their organization to ensure that all the interns are paid the same amount of compensation, regardless of funding from outside sources. Koenig noted that it would be a challenge

for his organization to compensate all of their interns at \$10,000.

- Salena Copeland from the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) expressed support for the fellowship program, which would allow more clients to be served over the summer with the increased people power, and potentially reduce the debt load for the law students who ultimately enter legal aid. She hoped that this additional funding to pay law students over the summer would help more law students of color to be able to work in legal aid. As a point of comparison, Copeland shared that LAAC's fellows make a little over \$8,000 over the summer. Copeland suggested to collect data on the students after the summer fellowship, analyze the impact of funding, and to increase the compensation in future years.
- Carla Lopez from California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. shared their support for the Law School Fellowship Grants.

### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

#### **4. Law Student Summer Fellowship Program Grants**

##### **4.1 Discuss and Approve Selection Criteria and Other Parameters for the 2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship Program Grants**

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Hom, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

Program Director Hom presented the background, timeline, proposed selection criteria, application, and reporting for the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants. There was discussion around the grant award amount options for the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants; staff proposed two options: \$12,500 grant award (with \$10,000 for the fellow compensation) and the \$10,000 grant award (with \$7,500 for the fellow compensation).

**RESOLVED**, that the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee, acting on behalf of LSTFC under its delegated authority, approves the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants timeline, request for proposals, scoring rubric, and grant parameters, including allowing applicants to apply for multiple grant awards, each for \$10,000, as described in staff's January 23, 2023, memorandum to the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee.

*Moved by Campbell, seconded by Akhlaghi.*

*Ayes – (4) Campbell, Coleman, Rosi, Akhlaghi*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries.*

**ADJOURN**

DRAFT