



The State Bar *of California*

Adoption of Additional Legislative Priorities

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Components

- Inspector General/Discipline Monitor for the Discipline System
- Strengthen Statutory Conflict of Interest Requirements
- State Bar Participation in the State Budget Process
- Fee Increase Sought for 2025
 - Dependent on Building Sale and Use of Funds
- Exploration of additional options to improve transparency and accountability



Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability: *Inspector General/Discipline Monitor for the Discipline System*



Improve oversight of the discipline system; ensure implementation of policies, procedures, and priorities



Proactive audit and monitoring; focused review of performance metrics and performance data



Decision Point: Reporting to the Board or Supreme Court?



Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability: *Strengthen Conflict of Interest Requirements*



Better alignment with the Political Reform Act re: disqualification from decision making when financial interests implicated; Form 700 disclosures



Aligning law on nonfinancial conflicts with common law to address certain conflicts and the appearance of conflicts



Sends an important message re: the Board's commitment to transparency & accountability



Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability: *State Bar Participation in the State Budget Process*



Increases transparency
and accountability



May move decision making
about the licensing fee to
budget committees;
operational issues remain
with policy committees;
may result in increased
funding



Requires infusion of
resources and time to
manage transition



Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability: *Fee Increase Sought for 2025*



Contingent on Ability
to Use Proceeds from
Sale of SF Building
(statutory change)



Permits State Bar to
demonstrate commitment
to improvement and
rebuild trust



Fee increase will be
needed for 2025 to meet
State Bar obligations



Previously Adopted Priorities

- Discipline system technical amendments
- Fee increase to support DEI efforts
- Ensuring that reimbursement owed to the Client Security Fund is not dischargeable in bankruptcy
- Elimination of obsolete statutorily required reports
- Adjustment of due dates for certain statutorily required reports to allow for Board or Board Committee review



Additions for Board Consideration

- Two-Year Term for Board chair
- Accessibility of Bar Exam and FYSLX Answers



Status Update

Disclosure of Confidential Information Related to
Discipline Investigations -B&P 6086.1





Questions?

Recommendations: Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts as a legislative priority establishing an Inspector General/Discipline Monitor position, as contemplated by the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability & Oversight Reforms, and directs staff to continue to explore where the position should be housed; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts as a legislative priority making statutory changes to the Political Reform Act and statutes relating to government contracting, to strengthen conflict of interest rules that apply to the Board of Trustees and State Bar staff in furtherance of the Board's commitment to transparency and accountability; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts as a legislative priority incorporating the State Bar into the state budget process so long as sufficient resources and time are provided to make the necessary alterations to current processes, and directs staff to work with the Department of Finance and the Legislature to address those matters; and it is

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Recommendations: Path to Improvement and Increased Accountability

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees revises the previously adopted legislative priority of seeking a fee increase to instead defer seeking a fee increase for one year if the State Bar is able to sell the San Francisco building at an acceptable price, and the Legislature removes restrictions on how the proceeds of the sale may be used; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs staff to continue to explore with the Legislature other measures to enhance transparency and accountability.



Recommendations: Operations

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts as a legislative priority changing the term of the Board chair from one-year to two-years; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts as a legislative priority amending Business and Professions Code section 6065 to align the statutory language with current practice.

