



Date: August 10, 2023

To: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

From: Patience Milrod, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Appointments Liaison  
Christian Schreiber, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Appointments Liaison

Subject: Appointment of Client-Eligible Member to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission for the 2023-2024 Term

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memorandum presents the Appointments Liaisons' recommendation for the 2023-2024 appointment to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (Commission). There will be one client eligible member vacancy beginning September 2023, and 40 applications were received.

The recommendation of the Appointments Liaisons will be presented for action at the August 10 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission meeting.

### BACKGROUND

Pursuant to section 6210.5 of the Business and Professions Code the Commission appoints four members of the 24-member commission. At least two of the four members appointed by the Commission must be, or have been within five years of appointment, indigent persons as defined by section 6213 of the Business and Professions Code. The chair of the Judicial Council appoints 10 members, including the three nonvoting judicial advisors. The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint two members, and the Board of Trustees appoints six members. The Judicial Council, rather than the Board or the Commission, selects the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Commissioners serve four-year terms, with the possibility of reappointment to a second term. No employee or independent contractor acting as a consultant to any agency that is a potential recipient of funds under the Legal Services Trust Fund Program shall be appointed to the Commission.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Introduction and Summary**

While there are five total vacancies on the Commission for the 2023-2024 term, the Commission has only one appointment and it must be filled by an indigent person as defined by the IOLTA statute. The Judicial Council will fill one vacancy and the remaining three vacancies will be filled by the Board of Trustees.

Forty applications were received: 28 from public member applicants and 11 from attorney applicants. Of these applications, three are current commission members seeking reappointment: (1) Amin Al-Sarraf; (2) William Boschelli; and (3) Jim Meeker. All three were appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The Appointments Liaisons reviewed all applications, which are being considered by both the State Bar and the Commission for their respective vacancies. Staff and the Appointments Liaisons have interviewed three candidates. On July 21, 2023, the Board of Trustees renominated Amin Al-Sarraf to an additional four-year term. The Board also appointed Jonathan Sandville and Milan Sundaresan to four-year terms beginning September 2023. The Judicial Council has a separate nomination process, and the Senate and the Assembly do not have vacancies this upcoming year.

### **Recommendation to Fill One Client Eligible Vacant Position**

After thorough review of the applications, the Appointments Liaisons recommend the appointment of Jacqueline Alikhaani from North Hills, California. Jacqueline's personal health experiences prompted her strong desire to give back to the community and be a voice for those in need. She currently volunteers for Citizen Scientist Architect-of-Change, where she advocates on behalf of patients living with chronic, disabling and/or life-threatening medical conditions. Jacqueline has extensive volunteer experience, including serving on the Board of the LAPD Mission Station Community Policing Advisory Board and the Adult Congenital Heart Association. Jacqueline also has experience in grantmaking through her volunteer work on the National Patient Advocate Foundation, where she served on the President's Advisory Council. The Appointments Liaisons believe that Jacqueline will contribute a diverse perspective to the Commission and will be an invaluable voice for underserved and underrepresented clients seeking legal assistance.

## CONCLUSION

After careful consideration of each applicant's skills, experiences, and perspectives in relation to the Commission's charge and work plan, the Appointments Liaisons strongly recommend the appointment of Jacqueline Alikhaani. Jaqueline possesses a commitment to the delivery of legal services to the indigent and has first-hand experience with the challenges facing underserved and vulnerable communities. Moreover, her knowledge of grant-making processes and procedures and experience serving on government boards will advance the Commission's work and objectives related to increasing access to justice.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

**RESOLVED**, that the Appointments Liaisons recommend that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approve the appointment of Jacqueline Alikhaani to serve on the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, for a four-year term, commencing on September 22, 2023, and expiring on September 23, 2027.