



# The State Bar of California

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## Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Executive Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
12:02 p.m.– 12:40 p.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:**

The LSTFC Law School Fellowship Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 12:02 p.m.

**Time Meeting Adjourned:**

12:40 p.m.

**Chair:**

Banafsheh Akhlaghi

**Committee Coordinator:**

Elizabeth Hom

**Members Present:**

Venetta Campbell, Novella Coleman, Judge Kristin Rosi

**Members Absent:**

None

**Liaisons Present:**

Laura Brown, Salena Copeland

**Liaisons 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. Approval of Minutes**

**3.1 Open Session Minutes: March 21, 2023**

*Moved by Rosi, seconded by Campbell.*

*Ayes – (3) Campbell, Coleman, Rosi, Akhlaghi*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries.*

#### 4. 2023 LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

##### 4.1 Review and approve recommendations for the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants Awards

Program Director Elizabeth Hom presented an overview of the applications and scoring process for the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grant (LSFG) awards. There were 38 applications from 37 organizations, requesting funds for 170 fellows for a total of \$1.6 million. There is approximately \$760,000 in available funding for this grant. Program Director Hom announced that the State Bar is partnering with California ChangeLawyers who will provide fellows with support, training, and other opportunities to the cohort, and who will also fund between 10 to 15 additional fellows.

Program Director Hom explained the scoring process, which included staff reviewing all applications and working with two scoring teams to review all proposals. Program Director Hom then described two funding scenarios for consideration. The first scenario prioritizes funding top scores and would fund 77 fellows at 31 organizations. The second scenario prioritizes funding more organizations with the goal to support organizations in paying law students a living wage, help grantees develop paid summer law student opportunities, and increase the pipeline into legal aid. The scenario would fund 76 fellows at all 37 applicant organizations.

The Law School Fellowship Grants Committee (Committee) discussed the two funding scenarios and expressed support for the second option. Program Director Hom informed the Committee that organizations are required to identify fellows by June 1, 2023. If programs are unable to meet this deadline or otherwise decline grant awards, staff recommend delegating authority to staff to redistribute funds based on the next overall high score or highest score for the preference categories.

**RESOLVED**, that the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee recommends that the Executive Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund approve the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants recipients and awards described as funding scenario #2 in the April 25, 2023 memorandum.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee recommends that should applicants decline grant awards or are unable to confirm a law fellow by June 1, 2023, the Executive Committee with delegated authority from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission delegate authority to staff to reallocate any returned or declined 2023 Law School Fellowship Grant funds to applicants based on an analysis of the next overall highest scoring applicants and/or applicants with the next highest scoring funding preferences.

*Moved by Rosi, seconded by Campbell.*

*Ayes – (3) Campbell, Coleman, Rosi, Akhlaghi  
Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries.*

#### **4.2 Discussion on 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants Process**

Program Director Hom presented review team and feedback about the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants process, including potentially assigning more points for preference categories on the rubric, clarifying definitions for selection criteria, and providing more guidance to applicants in the request for proposals (RFP). Program Director Hom also discussed soliciting feedback from grantees, LAAC, and law schools.

The Committee agreed and suggested ensuring the RFP and rubric matched, as well as considering assigning more than 15-20 points total for the three preference categories. The Chair suggested collecting data midway through the fellowship this summer, as well as upon the fellowship's conclusion.

#### **4.3 Discussion on 2024 Law School Fellowship Grants Process**

Program Director Hom presented preliminary plans for the 2024 Law School Fellowship Grants process. The application process will likely occur in Fall 2023 to better align with timelines for summer internship recruitment processes for law students and grantees as well as law school funding decisions to support public interest law students. Staff will seek feedback from applicants, grantees who did not apply in 2023, and law schools to integrate lessons learned from the process in 2023 into the 2024 application. Program Director Hom invited the Committee to propose additional topics for consideration. The Committee suggested adding the likelihood of students practicing law in California as a rubric criterion or integrating that value into the process more.

**ADJOURN**