



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee Meeting Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Monday, November 13, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 1:03 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 2:16 p.m.

Chair: Venetta Campbell

Committee Coordinator: Elizabeth Hom

Members Present: Venetta Campbell, Novella Coleman, Judge Kristin Rosi

Members Absent: Efrain Escobedo

Liaisons Present: Laura Brown, Judicial Council, Salena Copeland, LAAC

Liaisons Absent: Melanie Snider, Judicial Council

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

The LSTFC Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee was called to order by Chair Campbell.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. Chair Campbell asked if there was anyone who wished to make a public comment.

Joshua Hirsch, Director of Grants, Public Counsel, provided public comments on agenda item 4.1.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Open Session Minutes: September 6, 2023

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee approves the September 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

Moved by Rosi, seconded by Campbell.

Ayes – (3) Coleman, Rosi, Campbell

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Escobedo

Motion carries.

4. 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants

4.1 Action on Late Submitted 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Applications

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

Program Director Hom presented on the background and timeline of the 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship (LALF) grant cycle.

Two organizations, Public Counsel and Legal Assistance to the Elderly, reached out to submit late applications beyond the due date of October 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m. Public Counsel contacted staff on October 12 and submitted their application on October 19. Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE) contacted staff on October 18 and submitted their application on October 25.

The committee discussed the two late application submissions and noted that they were submitted many days after the posted deadline and may have an adverse impact on those organizations who applied on time. It was also noted that the 2024 LALF grant applications were released sooner compared to the previous round, allowing for all organizations to review, consider in advance, and submit on time.

The committee passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee recommends the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (or the Executive Committee if delegated authority) not accept the applications from Legal Assistance to the Elderly and Public Counsel, which were submitted past the posted deadline.

Moved by Rosi, seconded by Campbell.

Ayes – (3) Coleman, Rosi, Campbell

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Escobedo

Motion carries.

4.2 Initial Calibration of Selected 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Applications

Presenter: Lauren McGary, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

McGary provided an overview of the application review and scoring process. There are two review teams composed of committee members and State Bar staff members. Staff members review all applications and hold internal calibration session before meeting with each review team. The goal of calibration is to ensure consistency in scoring, so that one score or review team does not unfairly advantage or disadvantage the organizations in its set of applications. Each review team has had a separate calibration session for the first 3 applications to be reviewed today.

Committee members discussed, reviewed, and calibrated the scoring rubric selection criteria and funding preference categories where there were non-consensus scores for Casa Cornelia, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Impact Fund. The committee discussed the factors for the Impact category and Organizational Benefit category. Program Director Hom provided clarification that the Impact category is related to the work that the law fellow will be doing, and the Organizational Benefit category is related to the benefit of hosting a law fellow on the organization. Program Director Hom reminded committee members that the average score will be taken for the categories where there is variance among review team scores.

4.3 Presentation on 2023 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Law Student Surveys

Presenter: Lauren McGary, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Senior Program Analyst McGary provided an overview and presented on the key findings from the Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship pre- and post- fellowship surveys.

The 2023 LALF cohort participated in two surveys, one at the start of their fellowship, and one towards the end of their fellowship. The intent of the survey data collection was to capture participant information which is helpful in understanding the diversity of the cohort and gauge the overall impact of the program as it aims to support the law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons.

Key Takeaways from the surveys included:

- Close alignment between the law students' interests and fellowship experience.
- Some fellows affirmed that their ability to work at a legal aid organization over the summer was due to State Bar's funding.

Committee members inquired and discussed the post-fellowship surveys, additional survey questions for consideration, and reporting requirements (if any) to the California State Legislature. Program Director Hom responded that there were no formal

reporting requirements to the legislature for LALF grant funding; however, because the statute directing the funding to summer law student fellowships is limited to two years, the State Bar plans to share data collected with the legislature with the goal to support continued funding for this grant.

ADJOURN

DRAFT