



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

50-6 JANUARY 2024

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE III.B

DATE: January 18, 2024

TO: Members, Board Executive Committee
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Louisa Ayrapetyan, Board Secretary, Office of the Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approval of New Member to the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda item presents the candidate recommended for appointment to the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee (LAPOC) for the 2024–2025 committee year. This appointment is to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Christina Salazar, appointed in 2023. Members are appointed to serve a four-year term.

BACKGROUND

LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

LAPOC oversees the operation of the Lawyer Assistance Program as necessary to establish policies, practices, and procedures to support the program goal of offering education and rehabilitative programs to attorneys, former attorneys, State Bar applicants, and law students suffering from substance use and mental health disorders. LAPOC consists of 12 members serving four-year terms. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6231, the Board of Trustees appoints six members to LAPOC; the committee must include:

- Two members who are licensed mental health professionals with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness;
- One member who is a physician with knowledge and expertise in the identification and

treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse;

- One member of the board of directors of a statewide nonprofit organization established for the purpose of assisting lawyers with alcohol or substance abuse problems, which has been in continuous operation for a minimum of five years; and
- Two members who are lawyers, at least one of whom is in recovery and has at least five years of continuous sobriety.

DISCUSSION

Licensed mental health professional Christina Salazar was appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill out-going member Dr. Martin William's seat in July 2023. Salazar renounced their appointment soon afterwards, creating a need to fill this vacancy off-cycle.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO LAPOC

Following review of previous and new applications, LAPOC leadership and staff recommend that Dr. Lisa Johnson be appointed as one of "two members who are licensed mental health professionals with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness" to a four-year term. Dr. Johnson is a licensed mental health professional with experience serving on boards and holding leadership positions. She is based out of Los Angeles.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

A detailed demographic breakdown of current LAPOC members, recommended candidate, and the proposed composition—including both current and recommended candidate—is provided as Attachment B.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Goal 4. Protect the Public by Engaging Partners.

b.1. Create and sustain partnerships with other organizations, entities, and stakeholder groups.

c.2. Increase the number and variety of stakeholders to include affinity bar associations and a broad range of organizations invested in the mission of the State Bar.

c.3. Engage diverse voices in the development and evaluation of State Bar policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Board Executive Committee concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Lisa Johnson to serve on the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 18–19, 2024, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

Should the Board of Trustees concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of Dr. Lisa Johnson to serve on the Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 18–19, 2024, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 23–24, 2027, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

ATTACHMENT LIST

- A.** Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee Roster of Current Members and Proposed Member
- B.** Composition Demographic Breakdown

**Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee Roster
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
Current Composition				
Chair, Justin	Delacruz	✓		November 2023
Vice-Chair, Heather	Benton	✓		September 2024
James	Heiting	✓		January 2024
Tracy	LeSage		✓	September 2027
Diedre	Nguyen		✓	December 2024
Dr. Philip	Spiegel		✓	September 2025
Dr. Martin	Williams		✓	January 2024
Elise	Yenne, PhD		✓	September 2026
Proposed New Member				
Dr. Lisa	Johnson		✓	September 2027

LAPOC Composition Demographic Breakdown

Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee (LAPOC)

Membership and Composition

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6231, the Board of Trustees appoints six members to LAPOC. These appointees must include two members who are licensed health professionals and one physician, all with expertise in the identification and treatment of substance abuse; one member who is on a board of directors of a statewide nonprofit established for the purpose of assisting lawyers with substance abuse; and two attorney members, at least one of whom is in recovery and has at least five years of sobriety.

Approval of LAPOC recommendations would result in 57% attorney members and 43% nonattorney members.

Current # of members 7
Vacancies being filled 2024 1

Current LAPOC Composition

Attorney/Nonattorney		Gender		Race/ethnicity		Sexual orientation		Disabilities		Age group		Veteran Status	
Attorney	57%	Female	43%	No response	14%	Not answered	29%	Not answered	29%	Not answered	71%	Not answered	43%
Nonattorney	43%	Male	57%	Asian	14%	Heterosexual	57%	Yes	14%	50-59	14%	No	57%
				Black	14%	LGBTQ	14%	None	57%	70-79	14%		
				White	43%								

Recommended New Candidate (1) Composition

Attorney/Nonattorney		Gender		Race/ethnicity		Sexual orientation		Disabilities		Age group		Veteran Status	
Nonattorney	100%	Female	100%	Black	100%	Heterosexual	100%	None	100%	50-59	100%	No	100%

Proposed LAPOC Demographics Current + Recommended Candidates (does not include termed off members)

Attorney/Nonattorney		Gender		Race/ethnicity		Sexual orientation		Disabilities		Age group		Veteran Status	
Attorney	57%	Female	57%	No response	14%	Not answered	29%	Not answered	29%	Not answered	57%	Not answered	43%
Nonattorney	43%	Male	43%	Asian	14%	Heterosexual	57%	Yes	14%	50-59	29%	No	57%
				Black	29%	LGBTQ	14%	None	57%	70-79	14%		
				White	29%								