



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Executive Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Thursday, December 7, 2023
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC Executive Committee meeting commenced in open session at 1:04 p.m.
Time Meeting Adjourned: 1:27 p.m.
Chair: Erica Connolly
Committee Coordinator: Doan Nguyen
Members Present: Amin Al-Sarraf, Erica Connolly
Members Absent: None
Liaisons Present: Melanie Snider, Salena Copeland, Laura Brown
Liaisons Absent: None

OPEN SESSION

1. **Call to Order**

The LSTFC Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Connolly.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. Chair Connolly invited members of the public to comment on any items on the agenda. Salena Copeland made a comment about the recent major donations to California legal aid organizations.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 **Approval of Meeting Summary and Action Items from October 24, 2023**

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Executive Committee approves the Open Session Minutes from the October 24, 2023, meeting as posted on the agenda.

Moved by Al-Sarraf, seconded by Connolly.

Ayes – (2) Al-Sarraf, Connolly

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

4. Discussion and Action Items

4.1 Review and Approve the 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Awards Recommendations

Program Director Elizabeth Hom and Senior Program Analyst Lauren McGary presented the award recommendations for the 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants. There were 34 qualified applicants seeking funding for 170 fellows totaling nearly \$1.65 million. The Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants (LALFG) Committee voted to recommend the Executive Committee, with delegated authority from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC), approve the tentative grant awards identified in the proposed funding scenario #2. This scenario would award funding to all 34 qualified applicants for a total of 77 fellows. The higher scoring applicants would be eligible to receive funding for more than one fellow. The LALFG Committee also voted to recommend the Executive Committee delegate authority to staff to modify the distribution of awards based on the funding amount identified in March 2024, using the method described in the selected funding scenario. Further, the LALFG Committee voted to recommend the Executive Committee delegate authority to staff to reallocate any returned or declined funds to applicants based on the method used in the selected funding scenario.

The Executive Committee members asked follow-up questions. Staff responded to questions related to the following matters: the approach to funding, the amount of funding awarded per law student fellow, the review teams' approach to scoring, the LALFG Committee's composition, and the effectiveness of the scoring rubric. Staff reported that the LALFG Committee members provided feedback on the scoring rubric following the 2023 application cycle. Additionally, staff collected 2023 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grant evaluations from grantees and surveys from the law students, which showed that, overall, both the programs and the students were pleased with the fellowship opportunity. Staff will present these findings at a future Commission meeting.

In addition to the Commission's awards, staff reported that the State Bar's partner organization California ChangeLawyers will also fund law students for the 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship; its funding awards will also go to the State Bar's applicant organizations.

The committee approved the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, with delegated authority from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and upon recommendation by the Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee, approves the 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants recipients and awards described as funding scenario #2 in the December 4, 2023, memorandum, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, with delegated authority from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and upon recommendation by the Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee, delegates authority to staff to modify awards according to the method described in funding scenario #2, based on the funding amount available determined after the 2024 attorney licensing fee cycle, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, with delegated authority from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and upon recommendation by the Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Committee, delegates authority to staff to reallocate any returned or declined 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grant funds to applicants according to the method described in funding scenario #2.

Moved by Al-Sarraf, seconded by Connolly.

Ayes – (2) Al-Sarraf, Connolly

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (0)

Motion carries.

ADJOURN