



# The State Bar of California

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## **OPEN SESSION**

## **AGENDA ITEM**

**50-3 MAY 2024**

## **BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE III.B**

**DATE:** May 16, 2024

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval of State Bar Appointee to the Judicial Council of California

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The State Bar appoints four lawyer members to the Judicial Council of California for three-year terms. David Fu's term will expire on September 14, 2024. It is recommended that the Board appoint Craig Peters.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Judicial Council, a state constitutional agency established in 1926, provides policy direction to the courts, the governor, and the Legislature concerning court practice, procedure, and administration. The council consists of the Chief Justice, one associate justice of the Supreme Court, three justices of the Courts of Appeal, ten judges of the superior courts, four lawyers appointed by the State Bar, two nonvoting court administrators, and other nonvoting positions as determined by the council. See [California Rules of Court, rule 10.2](#).

The current State Bar appointees to the Judicial Council and the dates their terms expire are provided as Attachment A.

## **DISCUSSION**

Criteria deemed important for the lawyer member's service on the council include broad experience in the legal field, including trial experience, credibility as a leader, collegial working relations, and a demonstrated interest in and experience with court administration issues. Another important consideration is the applicant's ability to make the time commitment necessary to serve.

This year, the term of an attorney member is set to expire in September 2024. Twenty applications all from attorney members were received. This is a record number of applications and gives the Board an opportunity to provide a new slate of attorneys with the chance to serve on the Judicial Council. The Board's appointments liaisons prioritized direct trial court, self-help experience, and practice diversity in its selection process. The appointments liaisons recommend that the Board of Trustees appoint Craig Peters to a three-year term, and Robert Meyerhoff and Ashleigh Nickerson, to serve as alternates for one year. Below are brief biographies of each candidate:

### **NEW MEMBER RECOMMENDATION**

#### **1. Craig Peters – Attorney Member**

Craig Peters is renowned for his extensive legal volunteer work and commitment to enhancing the legal system. His contributions span across multiple projects, including the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic, the Homeless Advocacy Project, and the Legal Referral and Information Service. He has also supported asylum seekers and imparted his expertise through attorney training programs with Vecina, notably at a trial skills training in Austin, Texas. Craig's commitment to the legal community is evident in his efforts to refine the skill sets of attorneys across various specialties and to develop practical, achievable legislative changes through diverse stakeholder collaboration. His vision focuses on simplifying the court system, promoting consistency across courts, and improving accessibility.

### **ALTERNATE MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **1. Robert Meyerhoff – Attorney Member**

Robert Meyerhoff has made significant contributions to the legal community, including through his previous service on the board of the Justice and Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association. His commitment extends to supporting educational institutions like Teach for America, Columbia University, and Fordham University School of Law through recruitment and fundraising efforts. With a diverse background in law, Robert has served both as a prosecutor and a civil litigator, handling cases ranging from intellectual property and contractual disputes to constitutional challenges.

#### **2. Ashleigh Nickerson – Attorney Member**

Ashleigh Nickerson has significantly impacted the legal community with her work at Amazon and earlier roles at Goodwin and Farella Braun + Martel, specializing in IP and

tech transactions. She has been instrumental in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, notably as an Ally Liaison for Goodwin's BOLD initiative, where she developed mentorship programs and organized events for Black History Month and Juneteenth. Her pro bono efforts span a range of issues, from immigration to voting rights and reproductive health.

## **FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

## **AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

None

## **AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL**

None

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS**

None – core business operations

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees appoint Craig Peters to the Judicial Council of California for a three-year term, beginning September 19, 2024, and expiring at the Judicial Council's September 2027 meeting, or until further order of the Board, whichever occurs earlier.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment A, each for the remainder of the resigning member's term if a midterm vacancy is created.

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, appoint Craig Peters to the Judicial Council of California for a three-year Term, beginning September 19, 2024, and expiring at the Judicial Council's September 2027 meeting, or until further order of the Board, whichever occurs earlier.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the list of alternate members as presented in Attachment A, each for the remainder of the resigning member's term if a midterm vacancy is created.

## **ATTACHMENT LIST**

- A.** Judicial Council of California Current Members and Proposed Members
- B.** Composition Demographic Breakdown

## Judicial Council of California Current Members and Proposed Members

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
David	Fu	✓		September 2024
Gretchen	Nelson	✓		September 2026
Rachel	Hill	✓		September 2026
Maxwell	Pritt	✓		September 2025
Proposed Member for Appointment				
Craig	Peters	✓		September 2027
Proposed Alternates				
Robert	Meyerhoff	✓		-
Ashleigh	Nickerson	✓		-

## Judicial Council of California

## Membership and Composition

The Judicial Council is the constitutionally created policy making body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. Four of its members are lawyers appointed by the State Bar.

Current # of members 4  
 Vacancies being filled 2024 1

## Current JC Composition

Attorney/Nonattorney	
Attorney	100%
Nonattorney	0%

Gender	
Female	50%
Male	50%

Race/ethnicity	
Asian	25%
White	50%
Not answered	25%

Sexual orientation	
Heterosexual	50%
Not answered	50%

Disabilitites	
None	50%
Not answered	50%

Age group	
40-49	25%
60-69	25%
70-79	25%
Not answered	25%

Veteran Status	
No	50%
Not answered	50%

## Recommended New Candidate (1) Demographics

Attorney/Nonattorney	
Attorney	100%

Gender	
Male	100%

Race/ethnicity	
White	100%

Sexual orientation	
Heterosexual	100%

Disabilitites	
No	100%

Age group	
50-59	100%

Veteran Status	
No	100%

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

Attorney/Nonattorney	
Attorney	100%
Nonattorney	0%

Gender	
Female	50%
Male	50%

Race/ethnicity	
White	75%
Not answered	25%

Sexual orientation	
Heterosexual	50%
Not answered	50%

Disabilitites	
None	50%
Not answered	50%

Age group	
40-49	25%
50-59	25%
70-79	25%
Not answered	25%

Veteran Status	
No	50%
Not answered	50%