



# The State Bar of California

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## Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Friday, June 7, 2024  
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:** The LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 2:00 p.m.

**Time Meeting Adjourned:** 3:05 p.m.

**Chair:** Eric Isken

**Committee Coordinator:** Helen Yu

**Members Present:** Catherine Blakemore, Venetta Campbell, Efrain Escobedo, Eric Isken, Hon. Clifford Klein, Maria Morales, and Jodi Prior

**Members Absent:** None

**Liaisons Present:** Laura Brown, Judicial Council of California  
Melanie Snider, Judicial Council of California

**Liaisons Absent:** Salena Copeland, Legal Aid Association of California

**Staff Present:** Christal Bundang, Shannon Crossley, Christopher McConkey, Kimberly Warmesley, and Helen Yu

### OPEN SESSION

#### 1. Call to Order

The LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee was called to order by Chair Isken.

#### 2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. Chair Isken called for public comment, inquiring as to if there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. There was no public comment.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

##### 3.1 Open Session Minutes: April 11, 2024

**RESOLVED**, that the LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee approves the Open Session Minutes from the April 11, 2024, meeting, as posted on the agenda but correcting for the following typographical error on page two: “For the current fiscal year, respondents’



counsel muse *[sic]* use their funds to...” should read “For the current fiscal year, respondents’ counsel must use their funds to...”

*Moved by Isken, seconded by Hon. Klein.*

*Ayes – (6) Catherine Blakemore, Efrain Escobedo, Hon. Clifford Klein, Maria Morales, Jodi Prior, Eric Isken*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (1) Venetta Campbell*

*Motion carries.*

#### **4. CARE Court Grants**

##### **4.1 Update on 2023–2024 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Funds**

**Presenter:** Helen Yu, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

State Bar staff presented data from the 2023–2024 CARE recipients’ reports for January 1–March 31, 2024. The number of cases opened last quarter was 196. The number of cases closed last quarter was 80. Staff also presented quarterly counts for petitioner type, respondents’ age, gender identity, race and ethnicity, housing status, and legal resolution. The committee discussed whether counties could do more to reach certain types of petitioners (e.g., tribal courts). It also proposed that the LSTFC and State Bar could share data and lessons from cohort one and Los Angeles County with the cohort two counties.

##### **4.2 Update on 2024–2025 CARE Court Funds**

**Presenter:** Helen Yu, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

State Bar staff presented that to estimate the funding that will be available for 2024–2025 services, the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) used the Governor’s January 2024 proposal of about \$51.7 million. On May 14, 2024, the Governor decreased his proposal for representing respondents to \$16,750,000 and for providing legal training and technical assistance to \$838,000. The forthcoming Budget Act will provide the final funding amounts for these services starting on July 1, 2024.

##### **4.3 Recommend 2024–2025 CARE Court Awards and Amounts for County Public Defender Offices, subject to the Budget Act of 2024**

**Presenter:** Helen Yu, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion



State Bar staff presented the timeline, scoring rubric, and review process for 2024–2025 CARE Court awards. The State Bar received applications from four Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs) and one support center. QLSPs applied to serve San Bernardino, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. Two applicants currently represent CARE respondents in San Francisco County.

The scoring team consisted of three committee members and two State Bar staff members. It recommended the following awards:

**Table 1. Scoring Team Recommendations**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)	64	\$25,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC)	74	\$429,501
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)	61	\$463,693
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (LASSMC)	62	\$224,830
Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE)	76	\$496,078

The scoring team recommended that each applicant receive the amount that it requested pending the forthcoming Budget Act.

At the Governor’s May proposed funding levels, DREDF, LASSB, and LASSMC could still receive their full requests. The amounts for JDC and LAE, however, would likely exceed the funds available to San Francisco County. Staff recommended that the committee seek authority to finalize 2024–2025 awards and other amounts for respondent’s counsel (i.e., the county allocation formula) after the Budget Act of 2024 passes. The committee discussed whether to adjust the funding floor to ameliorate the effects of lower funding in the Governor’s May Revise.

The committee then considered the following motion:

**RESOLVED**, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee, acting on behalf of the LSTFC under its delegated authority, recommends the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant recipients and amounts, subject to the Budget Act of 2024, as described in staff’s memo dated June 7, 2024; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee recommends that the LSTFC delegate to the Committee authority to adjust the 2024–2025 CARE Court awards and amounts for county public defender offices or their



equivalents (i.e., the county allocation formula) to ensure sufficient funding for representation in each county and compliance with the Budget Act of 2024.

*Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Hon. Isken.*

*Ayes – (7) Catherine Blakemore, Venetta Campbell, Efrain Escobedo, Hon. Clifford Klein, Maria Morales, Jodi Prior, Eric Isken*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries.*

**4.4 Recommend Delegation of Authority to Adjust the 2024–2025 CARE Court Awards and Amounts for County Public Defender Offices to Comply with the Budget Act of 2024**

The committee discussed and voted on this agenda item as part of item. 4.3, above.

**ADJOURN**