



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Executive Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Friday, February 14, 2025
12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC Executive Committee commenced in open session at 12:00 p.m.

Chair: Erica Connolly

Committee Coordinator: Doan Nguyen

Members Present: Catherine Blakemore, Efrain Escobedo, Patience Milrod, Judge Kristin Rosi, Erica Connolly

Members Absent: Amin Al-Sarraf, Jason Galkin

Liaisons Present: Salena Copeland, LAAC

Liaisons Absent: Melanie Snider, Judicial Council

Staff Present: Christal Bundang, Erica Carroll, Christopher McConkey, Doan Nguyen, Heidi Slater, Mara Vejby, Kimberly Warmesley

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The LSTFC Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Connolly. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Connolly called for public comment, inquiring as to if there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. The following comment was provided:

1. Kai On
Provide public comment regarding a report he filed with the Sacramento Police Department.

1. Chair's Report

San Francisco Office
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

www.calbar.ca.gov

Los Angeles Office
845 South Figueroa
Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

1.1 Oral Report

Co-Chair Connolly welcomed all members to the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted LSTFC Executive Committee.

2. Director's Report

2.1 Oral Report

Program Director Doan Nguyen announced that the Office of Access & Inclusion recently hired a new Director of Grants, Joyce Song. Nguyen also shared that Governor Newsom signed SBX 1-2 last Friday, which provides a \$10 million increase in Equal Access Formula Funds. Staff is currently working to administer these funds as soon as possible.

3. Committee Report

3.1 Report from LSTFC Grant Eligibility and Support (GES) Committee

Presenter: Heidi Slater, Program Manager, Office of Access & Inclusion

Program Manager Slater provided updates from the January 27, 2025, GES Committee meeting. The GES Committee discussed its proposed charter, monitoring visit updates, and items related to the grant closeout process, budget modification and carryover requests. Slater highlighted that under the proposed charter, approval authority of certain items would change from the LSTFC to the GES Committee. The Executive Committee sought clarity on when serious issues would be brought before both the GES Committee and LSTFC.

3.2 Report from LSTFC Program Development and Impact (PDI) Committee

Presenters: Judge Kristin Rosi, Chair, LSTFC PDI Committee
Christopher McConkey, Program Manager, Offices of Access & Inclusion

Commissioner Rosi and Program Manager McConkey provided updates from the February 7, 2025, PDI Committee meeting. The PDI Committee discussed its proposed charter, workplan and priorities for 2025, legislative updates, and recommended action regarding reallocation of CalHFA and HP 4 grant funds.

3.3 Report from LSTFC Rules Committee

Presenters: Catherine Blakemore, Chair, LSTFC Rules Committee
Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Offices of Access & Inclusion

Commissioner Blakemore and Lead Program Analyst Carroll reported that that Rules Committee had not yet convened, but shared highlights from its proposed charter and work plan. Because this committee is not new, it plans to continue its work plan beginning with the codification topic of real property.

4. Open Session Minutes

4.1 Approval of November 1, 2024 Open Session Minutes

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Executive Committee approves the Open Session minutes from the November 1, 2024, meeting as posted on the agenda.

Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Rosi.

Ayes – (5) Blakemore, Rosi, Escobedo, Milrod, Connolly

Noes – (0) None

Abstain – (0) None

Absent – (2) Al-Sarraf, Galkin

Motion carries

5. Business

5.1 Approval of Reallocating Remaining California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) Grant Funds

Presenter: Christopher McConkey, Program Manager, Office of Access & Inclusion

McConkey reported that one CalHFA grantee concluded its project on December 31, 2024, and returned \$217,831 in unspent funds. Five organizations opted into to request a share of the unspent funds for a third reallocation of funds. If approved, grantees will have until the end of the grant, June 30, 2025, to spend all CalHFA funds.

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Executive Committee, acting on its delegated authority, approves the reallocation of remaining CalHFA grant funds as described herein.

Moved by Milrod, seconded by Escobedo

Ayes – (5) Blakemore, Rosi, Escobedo, Milrod, Connolly

Noes – (0) None

Abstain – (0) None

Absent – (2) Al-Sarraf, Galkin

Motion carries

5.2 Approval of 2025 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grants Tentative Funding Recommendations

Presenter: Mara Vejby, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Vejby reminded the Executive Committee that it has delegated authority by the LSTFC to approve the 2025 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship (LALF) grant awards. If the recommended funding scenario is approved, LALF would support 167 fellows across 57 legal aid host organizations.

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Executive Committee approve the 2025 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grant funding recommendations as described herein.

Moved by Rosi, seconded by Escobedo

Ayes – (5) Blakemore, Rosi, Escobedo, Milrod (abstain as to Central California Legal Services), Connolly

Noes – (0) None

Abstain – (0) None

Absent – (2) Al-Sarraf, Galkin

Motion carries

5.3 Approval of LSTFC Executive Committee Charter

Presenter: Doan Nguyen, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

Nguyen shared the updated LSTFC Executive Committee with redlined changes in redline that include specific reference to the Vice Chairs as members and a statutory citation regarding how LSTFC Chairs are appointed.

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Executive Committee recommend approval of its proposed committee charter.

Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Milrod

Ayes – (5) Blakemore, Rosi, Escobedo, Milrod, Connolly

Noes – (0) None

Abstain – (0) None

Absent – (2) Al-Sarraf, Galkin

Motion carries

5.4 Discussion of Potential Strategies to Support Programs Against Funding Loss

Presenter: Doan Nguyen, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

Discussion item only. Nguyen shared some recent efforts to support programs against funding loss. This includes moving up the timeline for quarter 2 payments and processing budget modification requests more quickly.

5.5 Discussion Regarding February 28, 2025 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Meeting

Presenter: Doan Nguyen, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

Discussion item only. An overview of the planned agenda for the February 28, 2025, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission meeting was presented.

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