



The State Bar *of California*

# 2024 Legislative Priorities & Legislative Proposals

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# Agenda

1. Update to Affirmative Legislative Proposal re: Earmark of Legal Services Funding for Fellowships
2. Position on SB 940 (Umberg) – Certification of ADR Firms, Providers, and Practitioners
3. Discussion of Fee Increase Authorized in AB 3279 and State Bar Position



## Earmark Funding for Summer Fellowships

- \$45 contribution as part of licensee fees for legal services (opt out)
- \$5 earmarked for past 2 years for summer fellowships at IOLTA funded organizations
- Broad community support to continue that funding for an additional 5 years
- Now also broad support to increase amount dedicated from \$5 to \$10



# State Bar Position on Pending Legislation: SB 940 (Umberg)



Program to allow ADR firms, providers, and practitioners to seek State Bar certification



Creation of the program is mandatory; participation in the program is voluntary



Minimum criteria for certification enumerated in the bill



Bar to develop additional criteria, incl levels / tiers (modeled after DEI leadership seal)



State Bar to assess fees to cover the reasonable costs, including start up costs



# Comparison of Fee Increase Request & AB 3279

## Maintaining Public Protection



	State Bar Need	Current Bill
Lease costs	\$21	\$15
Contractual obligations	\$35	\$62
Staffing levels	\$39	\$62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95</b>	<b>\$77</b>

# Comparison of Fee Increase Request & AB 3279

## Improving Public Protection

**Growing case backlogs** in the attorney discipline system.

	State Bar Need	Current Bill
OCTC Case Processing	\$15.25	✗
Diversion Program	\$5.50	\$5.50
Complaint Review Unit	\$3.50	✗
Client Trust Account Protection Program	\$5.75	\$5.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>

# Essential Requirements for Support Position



Full funding for all maintaining public protection elements?



Funding of all items requested?



Elimination of need to increase vacancy rate?



Authorization to use portion of CSF reserves and future CSF collection revenue for IT investments in modernization to face a future with fewer staff



## FYI: Other Issues in Progress

- Amendments to initiate enhanced collections activity
- Modernize LRS certification
- Use of Justice Gap Fund and legal services donations for urgent or emerging issues
- CTAPP (bank reporting and related issues)
- Timing of bar exam evaluation studies
- Technical amendments



# Questions

