

2.1 Approval of March 7, 2025, Open Session Minutes



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Friday, March 7, 2025
12:07 p.m.—1:50 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC Rules Committee commenced in open session at 12:07 p.m.

Chair: Catherine Blakemore

Committee Coordinator: Erica Carroll

Members Present: Catherine Blakemore, Erica Connolly, Tammy Mahoney, Jonathan Sandville, Xavier Vargas

Members Absent: Amin Al-Sarraf, Toni Hoang

Liaisons Present: Salena Copeland (LAAC)

Liaisons Absent: Melanie Snider (Judicial Council)

Staff Present: Erica Carroll, Shannon Crossley, Brady Dewar, Raul Duran, Doan Nguyen, Heidi Slater, Kim Warmesley

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Blakemore called for public comment, inquiring as to if there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. No public comments were made.

1. Staff Report

1.1 Oral Report

2. Open Session Minutes

2.1 Approval of November 6, 2024, Open Session Minutes

RESOLVED, that the LSTFC Rules Committee approves the Open Session minutes from the November 6, 2024, meeting, as posted on the agenda.

Moved by Sandville, seconded by Connolly.

Ayes – (4) Blakemore, Connolly, Sandville, Vargas

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Mahoney

Motion carries

3. Business

3.1 Discussion Regarding Purchase of Real Property

Presenter: Raul Duran, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Assistant General Counsel Duran reported on the State Bar’s current policy regarding the purchase of real property and changes that could be made to the policy through codification. Duran also reported on Legal Services Corporation (LSC) policies as a comparison and then facilitated a discussion among the committee members.

The committee discussed various possible changes to the State Bar’s policy, including whether mortgage payments may be treated the same as rent payments, the threshold for approval and/or period of security interest may be changed, and some limitations on sharing property may be removed. Staff will convene a working group and bring back a set of recommendations at a future meeting.

3.2 Discussion Regarding Rules Committee Charter

Presenter: Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Lead Program Analyst Carroll presented the Rules Committee charter. The charter was approved at the most recent Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and the committee’s role and responsibilities did not substantively change from prior years.

3.3 Discussion Regarding 2025 Rules Committee Work Plan

Presenter: Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Carroll presented on the committee’s 2025 work plan including topics anticipated for discussion. The committee discussed delaying recommendations on a topic on increasing the indigency threshold to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Staff will provide additional data on the topic at a future meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURN