

## 5.8 Approval of Annual Appointments of Officers and Members of State Bar Subentities



# The State Bar of California

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## **OPEN SESSION**

## **AGENDA ITEM**

**3.3 MAY 2025**

## **BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** May 22, 2025

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Annual Appointments of Officers and Members of State Bar Subentities

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This staff report presents the candidates recommended for appointment to the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE), California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS), Council on Access and Fairness (COAF), Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC), Client Security Fund Commission (CSFC), Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee (LAPOC), Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (RJNE), California Access to Justice Commission (CalATJ), and Judicial Council of California (JC) for the 2025–2026 committee year and the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission (JNE) for the 2026–2027 committee year.

Officers are named by the Board, and each serve a one-year term, with the exception of officers for the CBE. The current appointment practice, which staff recommends continuing, is that the current vice-chair should be recommended as chair for the upcoming committee year.<sup>1</sup>

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This staff report requests the Board Executive Committee to recommend the approval of the candidates listed in this memo to the full Board.

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<sup>1</sup> See, [Appendix B to the Board of Trustees Policy Manual](#), Appointment and Composition Requirements or Guidelines: “For leadership continuity, committee staff will generally nominate the committee member serving as Vice-Chair to serve as Chair in the committee year following service as Vice-Chair.”

## **DISCUSSION**

Each year, the State Bar recruits diverse candidates, including attorneys, public members, and former judicial officers, to serve on its committees. To ensure committee membership represents the rich diversity of Californians, the State Bar has continued with targeted appointment recruitment efforts.

For the current cycle, the appointments staff launched a targeted campaign on March 3, 2025, through April 3, 2025. This included outreach to nonprofit, community, specialized, and local/affinity bar organizations. Current and alumni members were also encouraged to recruit. Multimodal outreach efforts were employed including direct email, social media, and individual outreach. A full summary of the State Bar's recruitment efforts can be found as Attachment K.

This comprehensive strategy yielded 75 of applications, including 59 from California attorneys, one from an out-of-state attorney, 3 from current and former judicial officers, and 12 from nonattorney public members. Demographic information on the current committee and recommended candidates can be found in this [workbook](#).

### **COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS (CBE)**

CBE consists of 19 members. The Supreme Court appoints 10 attorneys, while the governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint 3 public members. At least 1 judicial officer and 1 attorney, admitted to the State Bar within three years, must be among the Supreme Court's appointees. The State Bar nominates candidates for the Supreme Court's consideration as per rule 9.4 of the California Rules of Court. The Board of Trustees submits a list of nominated candidates, identifying at least 3 candidates for each vacancy, if possible. The CBE terms last four years with the possibility of reappointment for a maximum of three terms.

#### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to CBE**

Twenty-one applications were received for one vacancy. In reviewing applications for appointment to CBE, a concerted effort was made to identify diversity on the basis of geography, as well as race, gender, and professional background. CBE leadership and staff considered each applicant's ability to commit to public service as an additional factor to these considerations.

A list of applicants recommended as new members and alternates is provided below:

#### **Proposed New Member Candidates**

1. Michael D. Lee (attorney member)
2. Rebekah A. Frye (attorney member)
3. Christopher S. Reed (attorney member)

#### **Proposed Alternate Candidates**

1. Thanh T. Ton (attorney member)
2. Mario U. Zamora (attorney member)

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of CBE leadership's recommendations.

### **CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION (CBLS)**

The CBLS consists of seven members, up to two of whom may be public members. The California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) recommends program rules and provides policies and guidelines for certification of specialists; develops testing and legal education criteria for specialists; and advises the Board of Trustees on establishment of specialty fields.

#### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to CBLS**

In light of the ongoing subentity review and to ensure appropriate implementation planning, staff is not recommending the appointment of any new members or alternates to the CBLS at this time. To maintain continuity, only officer appointments are being advanced for Board approval. Once a formal recommendation regarding the future of CBLS is brought forward, any necessary appointments will be revisited in alignment with that decision.

#### **Appointment of Officers to CBLS**

Staff recommends that George P. Surmaitis be appointed to the chair position and that Damon Livingston be appointed to the vice-chair position, each for a one-year term.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of CBLS leadership's recommendations.

### **COUNCIL ON ACCESS AND FAIRNESS (COAF)**

COAF consists of judges, lawyers, and public members from diverse practice settings and constituencies. New members are expected to have a working knowledge of DEI issues, a record of leadership in improving outcomes, and the ability to engage in strategic visioning focused on measurable change.

#### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to COAF**

Twenty applications were received for COAF positions, with three from public member applicants, 15 from attorney applicants, one attorney licensed out of state, and one from a current judicial officer. One letter of interest was received for each of the chair and vice-chair positions. COAF leadership and staff reviewed and discussed all applications for appointment. The recommended candidates are listed below:

#### **Proposed New Member Candidates**

1. Tita Gray (nonattorney public member)
2. Wener Vieux (attorney member)
3. Carlo John Rosario (attorney member)

#### **Proposed Alternate Candidates**

1. Tracey Broadhead (attorney member)
2. Judge Lynne Hobbs (judicial officer)

### **Appointment of Officers to COAF**

One letter of interest was received for the chair position and one letter of interest for the vicechair position. Staff recommends that Dean Chalak Richards Guinses be appointed to the chair position and that Terra Davis be appointed to the vice-chair position, each for a one-year term.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of COAF leadership's recommendations.

### **COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONDUCT (COPRAC)**

COPRAC consists of 13 members, including a chair, vice-chair, and advisor, appointed by the Board of Trustees.

### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to COPRAC**

This year, the following terms will end: three committee members, Nima Mohebbi, Eleanor Mercado, William Munoz; the Chair, Cassidy Chivers; and the Advisor, Brandon Krueger.

The individuals recommended for appointment will help maintain a core group of members with expertise in legal ethics, which is essential to the committee's ability to issue opinions and develop educational programs. In addition, the individuals recommended for appointment will further diversify the makeup of the committee both in terms of demographics as well as professional background and experience, adding a solo practitioner with expertise in criminal law and a member with a background in academia. COPRAC's leadership and staff reviewed the committee applicants and interviewed a group of 5 preferred candidates of the 17 total applicants.

A list of applicants recommended as new members and alternates is provided below:

### **Proposed New Member Candidates**

1. Allison Madwatkins (attorney member)
2. Adam Pearlman (attorney member)

### **Reappointment of Member**

COPRAC leadership and staff further recommend reappointing Nima Mohebbi for a second four-year term.

### **Proposed Alternate Candidates**

1. Erin Joyce (attorney member)
2. Nicola Migliaccio (attorney member)

### **Appointment of Officers to COPRAC**

One letter of interest was received for the chair position and two letters of interest for the vice-chair position. Staff recommends that Daniel O'Rielly be appointed to the chair position and that Eleanor Mercado be appointed to the vice-chair position, each for a one-year term.

In July [2021](#), the Board approved the reinstatement of the advisor position. The advisor is a one-year appointment, filled by the individual who served as the committee chair in the immediate-preceding year, and is subject to Board appointment as part of the yearly committee appointment process. Staff recommends appointing Cassidy Chivers, the outgoing chair, as the next advisor for a one-year term.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, reviewed and are in support of COPRAC leadership's recommendations.

#### **CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMISSION (CSFC)**

The CSF consists of five members serving four-year terms, appointed by the Board of Trustees. Members may be lawyers or public members. Out of five members, a maximum of three may be present or former licensees of the State Bar or admitted to practice before any court in the United States. There will be two vacancies at the end of September 2025: one attorney member and one nonattorney public member. In addition, the chair will need to be named by the Board. The chair and vice-chair serve one-year terms and may be reappointed at the Board's discretion.

#### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to CSFC**

In light of the ongoing subentity review and to ensure appropriate implementation planning, staff is not recommending the appointment of any new members or alternates to the CSFC at this time. To maintain continuity, only officer appointments are being advanced for Board approval. Once a formal recommendation regarding the future of CSFC is brought forward, any necessary appointments will be revisited in alignment with that decision.

#### **Appointment of Officers to CSFC**

One letter of interest was submitted for the chair position and one letter for the vice-chair position. Staff recommend that Fenglan Liu be reappointed to the chair position and that Monica Cooper be reappointed to the vice-chair position, each for a one-year term.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of CSF leadership's recommendations.

#### **LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (LAPOC)**

Pursuant to [Business and Professions Code section 6231](#), the Board of Trustees appoints six members to LAPOC and must include:

- Two members who are licensed mental health professionals with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of substance use and mental health issues;
- One member who is a physician with knowledge and expertise in the identification and treatment of alcoholism and substance use;
- One member of the board of directors of a statewide nonprofit organization established for the purpose of assisting lawyers with alcohol or substance use issues, which has been in continuous operation for a minimum of five years; and
- Two members who are lawyers, at least one of whom is in recovery and has at least five years of continuous sobriety.

### **Appointment of Officers to LAPOC**

Staff recommends that James Heiting be appointed to the chair position for a one-year term. Despite multiple outreach efforts to the full committee, no members expressed interest in serving as vice-chair. Staff will continue efforts to identify a qualified candidate and, if one emerges, will bring forward a recommendation for a mid-cycle appointment to fill the vacancy. LAPOC leadership and staff's recommended candidate is listed below:

### **Reappointment of Member**

1. Heather Benton (attorney member)

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of LAPOC leadership's recommendations.

### **REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL NOMINEES EVALUATION (RJNE)**

RJNE consists of two members of the Board of Trustees, one public member and one attorney member; one past member of the JNE Commission; and two at-large members appointed at the discretion of the Board. RJNE members serve four-year terms, except for the Board positions, which are filled annually by the Board chair at the commencement of the new Board year.

### **Appointment of Officer to RJNE**

RJNE leadership and staff recommend reappointment of current chair Elizabeth D'Orazio as RJNE Chair.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of RJNE leadership's recommendations.

### **JUDICIAL NOMINEES EVALUATION COMMISSION (JNE)**

The commission is comprised of both nonattorney public members and attorney members, up to a maximum of 38 members. State Bar Rules require that one of the licensees be a former judicial officer, preferably of an appellate court.<sup>2</sup> Commissioners serve a single three-year term and only the chair may serve a fourth year.<sup>3</sup>

### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to JNE**

Thirty applications were received for JNE positions, with 8 from nonattorney applicants, 20 from attorney applicants, and 2 from former judicial officers.

In reviewing applications, JNE leadership and staff considered: (1) leadership in their areas of practice or employment; (2) diversity of background, experience, and geography; and (3) volunteerism or community engagement. The criteria used to consider the licensee applicants include length of time in practice, sector, and practice area. The criteria used to consider public member applicants include employment sector and the communities they represent. In evaluating all applicants, JNE leadership considered letters of interest, resumes, and

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<sup>2</sup> See State Bar rule 7.2(B) one of the State Bar licensees is to be a former judge, preferably of an appellate court.

<sup>3</sup> See Board Policy Manual, Appendix B: Subentity Duties, Composition, and Appointing Authorities.

recommendations, particularly from members of the judiciary and current and former commissioners.

Recommendations for 13 appointments are presented for your consideration. The slate includes 1 former judicial officer, 2 public members, and 10 attorney members. With this recommended slate, all available public member slots permitted under the current rules remain filled. JNE leadership and staff also recommend the appointment of five alternates, including one former judicial officer, two public members, and two attorney members. JNE leadership and staff's recommended candidates are listed below:

#### **Proposed New Member Candidates**

1. Leisa Biggers (nonattorney member)
2. Rohullah Azizi (nonattorney member)
3. Judge Steven Stone (Ret.) (former judicial officer)
4. Alexandra Hamilton (attorney member)
5. Anurah (KC) Shah (attorney member)
6. Crystal Matson (attorney member)
7. Darby Williams (attorney member)
8. Josephine Alioto (attorney member)
9. Kimberly Robinson (attorney member)
10. Judge Leah Abraham (attorney member)
11. Marcie Gardner (attorney member)
12. Vickie Fernandes (attorney member)
13. Emmaline Campbell (attorney member)

#### **Proposed Alternate Candidates**

1. Elizabeth Chang (nonattorney member)
2. Sarah Ewing (nonattorney member)
3. Ashkaan Hassan (attorney member)
4. Drew Havens (attorney member)
5. Judge John Tomberlin (Ret.) (former judicial officer)

#### **Appointment of Officers to the 2026 JNE Commission**

Two letters of interest were received for the vice-chair position and one letter of interest for the chair position. JNE leadership and staff recommend that current vice-chair Stephen Hamilton for appointment as JNE chair and Sandy Flagge-Phillips for appointment as JNE vice-chair for the 2026–2027 term.

Brandon Stallings and Patricia Barahona, the Board's Appointments Liaisons, have reviewed and are in support of JNE leadership's recommendations.

#### **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA (JC)**

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 Judicial Council of California appointment terms are three years with the possibility of reappointment. Seven applications were received for the Judicial Council position, all from attorney applicants.

### **Appointment of New Members to JC**

Seven applications were received for the single vacancy, all from attorney members. Judicial Council leadership carefully reviewed the submissions, prioritizing diversity in professional experience and evaluating each candidate's commitment to public service, especially those with a demonstrated history of volunteerism. JC leadership's recommended candidate is listed below:

The following candidate is recommended for appointment to the JC:

1. Dena Stone (attorney member)

### **CALIFORNIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION (CalATJ)**

Following the 2023 enactment of the California Access to Justice Commission Statute,<sup>4</sup> the State Bar of California is invited to appoint candidates to two commissioner seats on the California Access to Justice Commission (CalATJ). The CalATJ plays a vital role in expanding access to legal services for Californians of all backgrounds. Its particular focus is on addressing the civil legal needs of low- and moderate-income individuals by removing systemic barriers, improving service delivery, and promoting equitable access to information, representation, and court resources. CalATJ commissioners work to develop policies and initiatives that improve the justice system's accessibility, enhance legal aid funding, and create innovative solutions to bridge the justice gap. The composition of CalATJ was significantly restructured with the enactment of the California Access to Justice Commission Statute, which took effect July 1, 2023.<sup>5</sup> This statute established a new governance framework for CalATJ, which now consists of 33 commissioners.<sup>6</sup> It also formally designated which state entities have authority to appoint commissioners and the number each can appoint.<sup>7</sup>

### **Appointment of New Members and Alternates to CalATJ**

Staff have conducted a thorough review of the applications received for the State Bar of California representatives on CalATJ. After evaluating the two submissions and conducting

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<sup>4</sup> [Gov. Code §§ 68655-68658](#).

<sup>5</sup> Chapter 2.2 of Title 8 of the California Government Code.

<sup>6</sup> The number of commission members is dictated by Section 3.2 of CalATJ's September 8, 2023, bylaws. The bylaws refer to the commission members as "directors", but for consistency with CalATJ's publicly facing materials this memo uses "commissioners".

<sup>7</sup> The commission now includes seven commissioners appointed by specific State entities: two appointed by the Governor of California, one by the President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate, one by the Speaker of the California State Assembly, and three by the Judicial Council of California. The remaining 26 commissioners are elected by majority vote of the commission, which is encouraged to invite recommendations from organizations that historically appointed commissioners before the statute's enactment, including the State Bar of California.

interviews, staff highly recommend two candidates who demonstrate exceptional commitment to access to justice and possess the expertise necessary to represent the State Bar on CalATJ. Staff recommend the Board of Trustees appoint Pablo Ramirez to fill the partial term to begin on July 1, 2025, and end June 30, 2027, and Judge Kristin Rosi to a full term beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029. CalATJ will need to ratify these appointments; staff anticipates they will do so at their June meeting.

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None

## **FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

## **AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

None

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

None

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

Goal 4. Protect the Public by Engaging Partners

- b. 1. Create and sustain partnerships with other organizations, entities, and stakeholder groups.
- c. 2. Increase the number and variety of stakeholders to include affinity bar associations and a broad range of organizations invested in the mission of the State Bar.
- c. 3. Engage diverse voices in the development and evaluation of State Bar policy.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Should the Board Executive Committee concur, it is:**

### **Committee of Bar Examiners**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees nominate to the Supreme Court the list of candidates, as presented in Attachment A, for appointment to serve on the Committee of Bar Examiners, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**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.

#### **California Board of Legal Specialization**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of the officers, as presented in Attachment B, for appointment to serve on the California Board of Legal Specialization, for a one-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Council on Access and Fairness**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment C, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment C, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

#### **Committee of Professional Responsibility and Conduct**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment D, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment D, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

#### **Client Security Fund Commission**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment E, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment E, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of the chair as presented in Attachment F, for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment F, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of the chair as presented in Attachment G, for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

### **Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment H, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment H, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

### **Judicial Council of California**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment I, for a three-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2028, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

### **California Access to Justice Commission**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment J, for a three-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2028, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

### **Should the Board of Trustees concur, it is:**

### **Committee of Bar Examiners**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, nominate to the Supreme Court the list of candidates, as presented in Attachment A, for appointment to serve on the Committee of Bar Examiners, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon the 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.

#### **California Board of Legal Specialization**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of the officers, as presented in Attachment B, for appointment to serve on the California Board of Legal Specialization, for a one-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Council on Access and Fairness**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment C, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment C, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

#### **Committee of Professional Responsibility and Conduct**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment D, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee, approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment D, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the

Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

#### **Client Security Fund Commission**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment E, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the reappointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment E, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of the chair as presented in Attachment F, for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the reappointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment F, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of the chair as presented in Attachment G, for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on

September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of officers as presented in Attachment H, each for a one-year term commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2026, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment H, for a four-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2029, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier; and it is

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

#### **Judicial Council of California**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of member candidate as presented in Attachment I, for a three-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2028, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

#### **California Access to Justice Commission**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Board Executive Committee approve the appointment of member candidates as presented in Attachment J, for a three-year term, commencing at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2025, and expiring at the close of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 2028, or until further order of the Board of Trustees, whichever occurs earlier.

### **ATTACHMENTS LIST**

- A.** Committee of Bar Examiners Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- B.** California Board of Legal Specialization Roster of Current Members and Proposed Officers



- C.** Council on Access and Fairness Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- D.** Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- E.** Client Security Fund Commission Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- F.** Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- G.** Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- H.** Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- I.** Judicial Council of California Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- J.** California Access to Justice Commission Roster of Current Members and Proposed Members
- K.** 2025 Appointments Cycle Outreach Summary

**Committee of Bar Examiners Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Alex	Chan	✓		September 2025
Vice-Chair, Alan	Yochelson	✓		September 2025
Kareem	Gongora		✓	October 2025
Larry	Kaplan		✓	October 2026
Michael	Cao, MD		✓	October 2025
Alexander	Lawrence, Jr.		✓	January 2025
Paul	Kramer, Jr.	✓		September 2028
Esther	Lin	✓		September 2025
Justice Shama Hakim	Mesiwala	✓		September 2027
Bethany	Peak	✓		September 2025
Justice Renee	Reyna	✓		September 2027
Ashley	Silva-Guzman	✓		November 2026
James	Bolton, PhD		✓	October 2025
<b>Proposed New Members</b>				
Patrick R.	Dixon	✓		September 2029
Rebekah A.	Frye	✓		September 2029
Christopher S.	Reed	✓		September 2029
<b>Proposed 2025 Alternate</b>				
Michael D.	Lee	✓		--
Thanh T.	Ton	✓		--
Mario U.	Zamora	✓		--

-- Denotes not applicable unless a vacancy is created due to a midterm resignation, at which point an alternate would be selected to fill that vacancy.

**California Board of Legal Specialization Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Michael	Lee	✓		September 2025
Vice-Chair, George P.	Surmaitis	✓		September 2025
Lisa L.	McGloiry		✓	September 2028
Grace R.	Alano	✓		September 2026
Pamela	Bennett		✓	September 2027
Dana	Rueckert	✓		September 2027
Damon	Livingston Jenkins	✓		September 2028
<b>Proposed New Officers</b>				
George (Chair)	Surmaitis	✓		September 2026
Damon (Vice -Chair)	Livingston Jenkins	✓		September 2026

**Council on Access and Fairness Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Judge Michael	Rhoads	✓		September 2026
Vice-Chair, Dean Chalak	Richards Guinses		✓	September 2026
Angelica	Salceda	✓		September 2025
Cecilia	de Leon	✓		September 2028
Yusuf	Zakir	✓		September 2028
Arinolayemi	Adegbonmire	✓		September 2027
Terra	Davis		✓	September 2027
Tristan EH	Higgins	✓		September 2027
Komal	Chokshi	✓		September 2028
<b>Proposed New Officers</b>				
Dean (Chair)	Chalak Richards Guinses		✓	September 2026
Terra	Davis		✓	September 2026
<b>Proposed New Members</b>				
Tita	Gray		✓	September 2029
Wener	Vieux	✓		September 2029
Carlo John	Rosario	✓		September 2029
<b>Proposed 2025 Alternates</b>				
Tracey	Broadhead	✓		--
Judge Lynne	Hobbs	✓		--

-- Denotes not applicable unless a vacancy is created due to a midterm resignation, at which point an alternate would be selected to fill that vacancy.

**Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Cassidy	Chivers	✓		September 2025
Vice-Chair, Daniel	O’Rielly	✓		September 2025
Advisor, Brandon	Krueger	✓		September 2025
William	Munoz	✓		September 2025
Nima	Mohebbi	✓		September 2025
Raquel	Brown		✓	September 2026
Emil	Ali	✓		September 2028
Eleanor	Mercado		✓	September 2025
Kerri	Riley	✓		September 2028
Vikita	Poindexter		✓	September 2028
Deepika	Ravi	✓		September 2027
Mary Grace	Guzman	✓		September 2027
Novella	Coleman	✓		September 2028
Elizabeth	Bradley	✓		September 2025
<b>Proposed New Officers</b>				
Daniel (Chair)	O’Rielly	✓		September 2026
Eleanor	Mercado		✓	September 2026
Cassidy (Advisor)	Chivers	✓		September 2026
<b>Proposed New Members</b>				
Allison	Madwatkins	✓		September 2029
Adam	Pearlman	✓		September 2029
<b>Proposed 2025 Alternate</b>				
Erin	Joyce	✓		--
Nicola	Migliaccio	✓		--

-- Denotes not applicable unless a vacancy is created due to a midterm resignation, at which point an alternate would be selected to fill that vacancy.

**ATTACHMENT E**

**Client Security Fund Commission Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Attorney Member</b>	<b>Public Member</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Fenglan	Liu	✓		September 2025
Vice-Chair, Monica	Cooper		✓	September 2025
Dr. Venetta	Campbell		✓	September 2025
Melanie	O'Day	✓		September 2028
Cheryl	Stengler	✓		September 2028
<b>Proposed New Officers</b>				
Fenglan (Chair)	Liu	✓		September 2026
Monica (Vice-Chair)	Cooper		✓	September 2026

**Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Heather	Benton	✓		September 2025
Vice-Chair, James	Heiting	✓		September 2025
Lisa	Johnson, MD		✓	September 2027
Tracy	LeSage	✓		September 2027
Diedre	Nguyen		✓	December 2024
Catherine	Young, MD	✓		September 2028
Elise	Yenne, PhD		✓	September 2026
Ryan	Peterson		✓	February 2029
<b>Proposed New Officer</b>				
James (Chair)	Heiting	✓		September 2026

**ATTACHMENT G**

**Review Committee of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Attorney Member</b>	<b>Public Member</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Maureen	Onyeagbako	✓		September 2026
Elizabeth	D’Orazio	✓		September 2027
Tobi	Inlender		✓	September 2026
José	Cisneros		✓	September 2025
Mattheus	Stephens	✓		September 2025
<b>Proposed New Officer</b>				
Elizabeth	D’Orazio	✓		September 2026



**Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Chair, Lorena	Peñaloza	✓		April 2026
Vice-Chair, Stephen	Hamilton	✓		April 2026
Darren	Teshima	✓		April 2028
Christina	Bazak	✓		April 2028
Anyia	Ku	✓		April 2028
Alan	Goldhammer	✓		April 2028
Erin	Leedy	✓		April 2028
Jason	Gundel	✓		April 2028
John	Polito	✓		April 2028
Michael	Morse	✓		April 2028
Trevor	Finneman	✓		April 2028
Katherine	Sanchez	✓		April 2028
Gregory	Schetina	✓		April 2028
Demetrius	Robinson		✓	April 2026
Robert	Dondero (Ret.)	✓		April 2028
Caroline	Hahn	✓		April 2026
Esteban	Mendoza	✓		April 2026
Jehan	Pernas	✓		April 2026
Kristin	Ault	✓		April 2026
Michele	Pincus	✓		April 2026
Roger	Lim	✓		April 2026
Antoinette	Morris	✓		April 2026
Joseph	Goldstein-Breyer	✓		April 2026
Linda	Soles		✓	April 2026
Kevin	Nichols		✓	April 2026
Cuautemoc	Ortega	✓		April 2026
Judge Andrew	Kauffman	✓		April 2026
<b>Proposed New Officers</b>				
Stephen (Chair)	Hamilton			April 2026
Sandy (Vice-Chair)	Flagge-Phillips	✓		April 2027
<b>Proposed New Members</b>				
Leisa	Biggers		✓	April 2029
Rohullah	Azizi		✓	April 2029
Judge Steven	Stone (Ret.)	✓		April 2029
Alexandra	Hamilton	✓		April 2029
Anurah (KC)	Shah	✓		April 2029
Crystal	Matson	✓		April 2029

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
Darby	Williams	✓		April 2029
Josephine	Alioto	✓		April 2029
Kimberly	Robinson	✓		April 2029
Judge Leah	Abraham	✓		April 2029
Marcie	Gardner	✓		April 2029
Vickie	Fernandes	✓		April 2029
Emmaline	Campbell	✓		April 2029

#### Proposed 2025 Alternates

Elizabeth	Chang		✓	--
Sarah	Ewing		✓	--
Ashkaan	Hassan	✓		--
Drew	Havens	✓		--
Judge John	Tomberlin (Ret.)	✓		--

-- Denotes not applicable unless a vacancy is created due to a midterm resignation, at which point an alternate would be selected to fill that vacancy.

**Judicial Council of California Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members**

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
<b>Current Composition</b>				
Gretchen	Nelson	✓		September 2026
Maxwell	Pritt	✓		September 2025
Rachel	Hill	✓		September 2026
Craig	Peters	✓		September 2027
<b>Proposed New Member</b>				
Dena	Stone	✓		September 2028

California Access to Justice Commission Roster  
of Current Members and Proposed Members

First Name	Last Name	Attorney Member	Public Member	Term Expiration
Current Composition				
Proposed New Members				
Pablo	Ramirez	✓		June 2027
Judge Kristin	Rosi	✓		June 2029



# The State Bar *of California*

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ATTACHMENT K

**Date:** May 22, 2025

**To:** Brandon Stallings, Appointments Liaison  
Patricia Barahona, Appointments Liaison

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

**Subject:** 2025–2026 Appointments Recruitment Summary

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## BACKGROUND

For the 2025–2026 appointments cycle, the State Bar refined its outreach strategy by decentralizing recruitment efforts and empowering committee coordinators to play a more direct role. Rather than identifying new broad-based improvements, this year’s approach prioritized streamlining operations and leveraging committee-level networks to recruit strategically aligned and well-qualified candidates. This decentralized model supports the long-term goal of more sustainable and committee-driven outreach, with coordinators encouraged to identify and engage applicants through personalized networks, internal committee referrals, and relevant professional associations. These efforts build on last year’s positive trend: applicants referred or encouraged by individuals affiliated with the State Bar tend to be more engaged and qualified.

## TIMELINE AND SCOPE

The application window for the 2025–2026 cycle (and 2026–2027 for JNE) was open from **March 3, 2025, to April 3, 2025**, a shortened period due to delays in the launch of a new application portal, Committee Manager. Despite this condensed timeframe, a focused and strategic outreach approach allowed us to meet recruitment needs across all targeted committees.

- **Committees Recruited For (10 total):**
  - California Access to Justice Commission (CalATJ)
  - California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS)
  - Client Security Fund Commission (CSFC)
  - Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE)
  - Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE)
  - Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC)
  - Council on Access and Fairness (COAF)
  - Judicial Council of California (JC)
  - Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee (LAPOC)
  - Review Committee on Judicial Nominations (RJNE)
- **Seats Recruited (27 total):**
  - 21 California-licensed attorneys
  - 4 public members
  - 2 former judicial officers

## OUTREACH GOALS AND STRATEGY

The 2025 strategy focused on:

- Increasing nonattorney participation
- Promoting diversity across race, gender, geography, disability, and life experience
- Securing qualified candidates with relevant subject matter expertise, particularly for specialized committees

### Key Tactics Included:

#### 1. Committee-Specific Engagement

- Coordinators identified needed qualifications and experience gaps
- Coordinators conducted targeted outreach within their committees and professional circles
- Committee members and leadership shared appointment opportunities within their networks

#### 2. General State Bar Outreach

- Revisited qualified candidates from previous cycles
- Promoted the opportunity through:
  - The all-licensee email
  - Legal specialization contact lists
  - Appointments subscriber list
  - Prior committee applicants

- Committee alumni
- Social media posts (organic), featuring redesigned graphics and short-form testimonial.

### 3. Expanded Partner Engagement

- Shared opportunities with external partners including:
  - California Lawyers Association and affiliated bar associations
  - Judicial Council of California (Court News Update)
  - Legal Aid Association of California (IOLTA networks)
  - DEI Leadership Seal recipients
  - Public-focused organizations such as the League of California Cities, CMCP, and the California Judges Association

### 4. Centralized Web Presence

- Application access was available across the State Bar website and directly through the new Committee Manager application portal.
- Simplified the Appointment Opportunities webpage for clarity and directed applicants to the new portal.

## RESULTS

### APPLICATION RESULTS

Despite the compressed timeline and system transition, the State Bar received a strong response:

Applicant type	Number of applications received
Attorneys	60
Public members	12
Former judicial officers	2
Current judicial officers	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

### CONCLUSION

This year’s appointment recruitment efforts reflect a meaningful shift in strategy—centered on decentralized leadership, focused engagement, and sustained collaboration with committees. Even within a limited window, this model proved effective in identifying a diverse, qualified applicant pool that is well-positioned to support the State Bar’s mission.

As we refine our approach for future cycles, the 2025 experience reinforces the value of empowering committees, leveraging internal and external networks, and maintaining clear, consistent outreach

Brandon Stallings, Appointments Liaison  
Patricia Barahona, Appointments Liaison  
May 22, 2025  
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