



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

June 13, 2019
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias, Ms. Janet Hudec, Mr. David Levin, and Ms. Julie Paik

Subcommittee Members Absent: Hon. Erica Yew

Others Present: Mr. Matthew Clark, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Charlene Depner, Ms. Diana Glick, Mr. Gregory Tanaka, and Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and staff took roll call. Staff did not receive any public written comment for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

DISCUSSION (ITEMS 1-2)

Item 1

Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Chair Judge Victor Rodriguez reminded the Language Access Subcommittee (LAS) that Rule 1.300 was added to the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness (PAF) Annual Agenda in March as a language access project. On May 15, the Executive and Planning Committee approved the LAS's three new language access projects for the PAF 2019 Annual Agenda: signage and technology grants; public outreach campaign; and the language access survey.

He also shared that the May Revision for the 2019 Budget includes \$9.6 million, ongoing, General Fund for the Court Interpreter Fund for the continuation of interpreter services for civil matters and to cover increased costs in criminal cases. He is hopeful that this funding remains in the final budget that will be signed by the Governor later this month. Work by Judicial Council staff to ensure long-term stability of the Court Interpreter Fund is ongoing.

Judge Rodriguez shared that he plans to give the keynote speech at the Seventh Annual Conference of Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC) on September 23, 2019. The CLAC Conference will be held in San Francisco on September 23-25, 2019. As this year's host, council staff invited

interested Language Access Representatives of the 58 courts to attend the CLAC Conference, which will be beneficial and educational to them as their court's designated Language Access Representative.

Item 2

Discuss Language Access Projects on the 2019 Annual Agenda

Rule 1.300: Judge Rodriguez indicated Rule 1.300 and related forms were approved by the council at its meeting on May 17 and become effective September 1, 2019. The rule provides guidance to the courts on the provision of language assistance in court-ordered programs and services. Staff reviewed the Rule 1.300 overview document in the meeting materials and plans to develop informational packets for the public, courts, justice partners and community service providers to assist with implementation.

To ensure success of the new rule, LAS members agreed that individual courts and the branch will need to develop a network of current providers that provide language services for court-ordered classes that can be shared among the courts. Courts can work with their criminal, juvenile and family law departments, county probation agencies, county human services agencies, and other similar groups that maintain service provider lists to help the courts to gather information regarding providers.

Signage and Technology Grants: Judge Rodriguez shared that the process for signage and technology grants is still in development by council staff. The 2018 Budget Act includes \$2.35 million in ongoing funding for trial courts for language access signage and technology (\$1 million for signage, \$1.35 million for language access technology). Staff will work with courts to identify funding needs and will disburse this funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019–20 as a grant program. Staff will discuss this project more with the LAS and PAF at a future meeting.

Public Outreach Campaign: Judge Rodriguez shared the current language access services contract with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) includes deliverables to help the council to develop a public outreach campaign to reach limited English proficient (LEP) court users across the state (including strategy, multilingual print materials, signs, and recordings). The overview document in the meeting materials outlines some of the multilingual print/online materials, signage and audio/video recordings in which the NCSC is assisting us to develop. A sample infographic was included in the meeting materials. Staff will work on implementation of the materials on the web, which will take a couple of months, and will keep the LAS members updated.

Annual Language Access Survey: As a follow-up to surveys conducted in 2016–2018, Judge Rodriguez shared that staff will send out a language access survey to all 58 trial courts in the state next month, using the SurveyMonkey online instrument, to determine courts' current provision of court interpreters in all civil matters and also, other language access services. The survey will help the Subcommittee and Judicial Council staff obtain a better picture of the extent to which language services are provided by the courts, as well as areas that may need improvement. Staff went over the survey questions in the meeting materials and the kinds of data that will be collected.

Judge Rodriguez shared that the next LAS meeting will likely be in Fall/Winter 2019.

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved by the Subcommittee on December 4, 2019