



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING  
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

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[accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov](mailto:accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov)

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

August 19, 2021

12:15-1:15 p.m.

By Conference Call

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<b>Advisory Body Members Present:</b>	Hon. Luis Lavin, Hon. Kevin Brazile, Gurinder Aujla, Hon. Manuel Covarrubias, Hon. Mark Cullers, Hon. Mary Greenwood, Janet Hudec, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, David Levin, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Sasha Morgan, Hon. William Murray, Jr., Hon. Mickie Reed, Hon. Victor Rodriguez, Janice Schmidt, Hon. Sergio Tapia, Hon. Bobbi Tillmon, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Erica Yew.
<b>Advisory Body Members Absent:</b>	Hon. Sue Alexander (Ret.), Kim Bartleson, Gina Cervantes, Ana Maria Garcia, Mary Hale, Julie Paik, Michael Planet, Michael Powell, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Twila White.
<b>Others Present:</b>	Lisa Chavez, Douglas Denton, Charli Depner, Bonnie Hough, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, Danielle McCurry, Amanda Morris, Elizabeth Tam, Greg Tanaka

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### OPEN MEETING

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#### Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. Quorum achieved

Judge Kevin Brazile recognized the work and dedication of the committee members whose terms expire in September and thanked them for their service.

#### Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Judge Bobbi Tillmon and seconded by Judge Lia Martin. Judge Covarrubias abstained from voting. Motion carries.

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 5)

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#### Item 1

#### 2022 PAF Annual Agenda (No Action Required)

Update on 2022 Annual Agenda Process

Presenter: Judge Kevin Brazile

Committee members were updated on the status of the PAF 2022 annual agenda. The Judicial Council advised that committees should focus their efforts on items that support

the courts during and after the COVID 19 pandemic. Specific proposals will be discussed at a later date.

**Item 2**

**Racial Justice Working Group (No Action Required)**

Status Update on Racial Justice Working Group.

Presenter: Judge Kevin Brazile

The Racial Justice Working Group is chaired by Judge Elizabeth Macias. Committee members interested in joining the working group should contact Judge Macias or Cathy Ongiri.

**Item 3**

**Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program (No Action Required)**

Review and approve proposed awards for the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2021–22.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Judge Victor Rodriguez

Judge Rodriguez provided the committee with an update on the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program for Cycle 3 (Fiscal Year 2021–22) and reported that a total of 22 courts requested funding in the current cycle.

For Cycle 3, the PAF and Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) Chairs approved an increase to the maximum application amounts to encourage larger requests for funding. The maximum application amounts were increased to no more than \$200,000 for signage (20% of the \$1 million signage allocation) and \$270,000 for technology (20% of the \$1.35 million technology allocation), unless total funding requests are lower than the annual allocation. Additionally, the PAF and ITAC Chairs approved updating the grant priorities to expand eligible projects and to encourage courts to think forward in terms of their future technology needs.

For methodology, Judge Rodriguez shared staff coordinated the review of applications under the Signage and Technology Grant program with applications under the Judicial Council’s Information Technology FY 2021-22 Court Technology Modernization Funding to ensure that no court would receive duplicate funding for the same project.

For Cycle 3’s signage requests, each of the request can be fully funded. The total requests (\$997, 289.73) were under the \$1,000,000 allocation for signage, which resulted in remaining funding of \$2,710.27.

For this year’s technology requests, Monterey Court requested \$217,894.80 for the same technology project under both the PAF and IT grant programs. Because this amount is under consideration for a grant award under the Court Technology Modernization Funding program, the amount has been reduced from Monterey’s potential award for a Signage and Technology grant. With this reduction, the total recommended allocation for technology grants currently is \$1,278,569.68, with \$71,430.32 left over for contingency funding for technology projects.

Depending on the outcome of the Technology Committee meeting August 20 regarding final determinations for the Court Technology Modernization Funding, adjustments may need be made to Language Access Signage and Technology grants. Currently, it does appear that courts that applied for Language Access Signage & Technology grant funding can be funded for their projects.

Judge Rodriguez further noted that, in the event that Monterey does not receive the full amount requested from Modernization funding, then the contingency funding left over in the technology category will be used to assist Monterey with completion of their technology project. If remaining funding is not needed to assist Monterey with completion of their technology project, then the remaining technology funding under this program will be set aside as contingency funding for the awarded technology courts. This approach is consistent with how remaining funds were distributed in the previous cycles of the grant program.

In conclusion, Judge Rodriguez informed the committee the grant program can fund all 22 courts that requested funding for the current FY 2021–22 cycle.

Judge Manuel Covarrubias moved that the committee adopt the proposed awards for signage and technology for the grand total of \$2,275,859.41. Judge Lia Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carries.

#### **Item 4**

##### **Judicial Diversity Summit (No Action Required)**

Update on Judicial Diversity Summit

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Judge Kevin Brazile

Greg Tanaka updated committee members on attendance of the Judicial Diversity Summit's pre-sessions on August 4, August 11, and August 18, 2021. Committee members were encouraged to attend the remaining sessions and the main summit. The link for registration was included in the meeting materials.

#### **Item 5**

##### **Equal Access Fund – California Access to Justice Funding (Action Required)**

Review and approve proposed distribution of \$5 million to the California Access to Justice Commission for grants to civil legal aid nonprofits as required by the Budget Act of 2021

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Bonnie Hough

The Budget Act of 2021 (Sen. Bill 129, Stats. 2021, ch. 69) appropriated \$70 million to the Judicial Council for the Equal Access Fund, \$5 million of which must be allocated to the California Access to Justice Commission for grants to civil legal aid nonprofits. These

grants are to be used to support the infrastructure and innovation needs of legal services in civil matters for indigent persons.

Judge Bobbi Tillmon moved that the committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective October 1, 2021: Approve distribution of \$5 million to the California Access to Justice Commission for grants to civil legal aid nonprofits as required by the Budget Act of 2021. Judge Lia Martin seconded. Motion carries.

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**I. ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on October 21, 2021.