



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 16, 2021

12:15-1:15 p.m.

By Conference Call

Advisory Body**Members Present:**

Hon. Luis Lavin, Hon. Kevin Brazile, Hon. Sue Alexander (Ret.), Morgan Baxter, Gina Cervantes, Hon. Manuel Covarrubias, Hon. Ana de Alba, Hon. Judith Dulcich, Ana Maria Garcia, Janet Hudec, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Hon. Richard Lee, David Levin, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Sasha Morgan, Julie Paik, Hon. Victor Rodriguez, Janice Schmidt, Fariba Soroosh, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Twila White.

Advisory Body**Members Absent:**

Gurinder Aujla, Hon. Mark Cullers, Hon. Mary Greenwood, Mary Hale, Hon. Sunil Kulkarni, Michael Powell.

Others Present:

Lisa Chavez, Douglas Denton, Hon. Mark Juhas, Andi Liebenbaum, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, Amanda Morris, Catherine Ongiri, Elizabeth Tam.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. Quorum was achieved.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the Open meeting minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting with the following corrections:

- Change the date on page one from "October 15, 2021" to "October 21, 2021".
- Change the date in the header of page two from "October 21, 2020" to "October 21, 2021".

Motion to approve by Judge Lia Martin and seconded by Judge Elizabeth Macias.

Judge Kevin Brazile, Judge Richard Lee, and Janice Schmidt abstained from voting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 2)

Item 1**2022 PAF Annual Agenda (No Action Required)**

Update on 2022 Annual Agenda Process

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

Judge Brazile reminded the committee that annual agenda items will prioritize projects that assist courts, justice partners and parties with access to justice during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, address otherwise urgent needs or are mandated by legislation. Additionally, he provided committee members with background on the P3 Workgroup established in March 2021.

It is charged with identifying, refining, and enhancing the successful court practices that emerged during the COVID-19 Pandemic in order to increase access to justice, modernize services, and promote uniformity in practices going forward. PAF's work this year will focus on projects that assist some of the most vulnerable court populations including limited English proficient users and self-represented litigants.

Item 2

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

Language Access Subcommittee Update.

Presenter: Justice Victor Rodriguez

Before Justice Rodriguez provided an update on current language access projects, he provided a brief update on the Court Interpreter Employee Incentive Grant. Senate Bill 170 amended the 2021 Budget Act and provided \$30 million in one-time General Fund for a new Court Interpreter Employee Incentive Grant that is intended to increase the number of new interpreters in trial courts, and to increase language access services for court users inside courthouses. An overview, including eligibility, of the Court Interpreter Employee Incentive Grant was provided by staff at the Language Access Representatives webinar last month. Judicial Council staff anticipates that grant applications will commence this month and conclude in early 2022. Once applications for grants are evaluated, a report with recommendations will then be developed for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, Budget Committee, and Judicial Council approval by Spring 2022.

Justice Rodriguez provided the following updates on current language access projects:

1. For the Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, the Cycle 3 (FY 2021-22) recommendations and proposed allocations were approved by the Judicial Council last month. The 22 approved courts have been notified and staff is working with Contracts staff on executing the Intra-Branch Agreements (IBAs) to the courts by early January.
2. For Support on the Implementation of Rule 1.300, staff is currently working with the National Center for State Courts to complete a report with recommendations and strategies for consideration to support ongoing implementation of Rule 1.300. When the report from NCSC is complete, it will be shared with the Language Access Subcommittee and PAF early next year.
3. The Model Translation Guidelines document is currently in the review stage but is on track for completion by the end of the year or early 2022. The guidelines will be shared with the Language Access Subcommittee and PAF.
4. For the Annual Language Access Survey, staff is working to complete the survey report from last year (FY 2019-20). Staff plans to work on a shorter survey instrument for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and will review the survey instrument with the Language Access Subcommittee in March 2022 prior to issuing the survey to the courts next Spring (April/May) and conclude the survey by July 2022.

The Language Access Subcommittee plans to hold its first meeting in early Spring. Justice Rodriguez also shared the Language Access Metrics Report (Fall 2021) is posted to the Judicial Council's language access web page. The metrics report captures valuable metrics and information on court interpreters and statewide efforts to provide language access during the pandemic.

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on February 17, 2022.