



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND
FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

April 25, 2023

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias, Ms. Janet Hudec, Hon. Richard Y. Lee, Ms. Shirley Luo, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, and Ms. Fariba Soroosh

Advisory Body Members Absent: Ms. Julie Paik

Others Present: Ms. Irene Balajadia, Ms. Lisa Chavez, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Diana Glick, Ms. Tatjana Gruner, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Jannie Scott, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Mr. Gregory Tanaka, and Ms. Esther Vang

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.

Approval of Minutes

The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 6, 2022, meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Info 1: Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Justice Rodriguez shared the 2023 annual agendas for advisory committees, including the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, were reviewed and approved by Executive Committee on April 12.

At the April 20 PAF meeting, staff discussed an Invitation to Comment on a proposal that's circulated by the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel on new American Sign Language (ASL) requirements. The proposal is designed to increase the number of qualified ASL court interpreters for California. The proposal is posted online for public comment. Interested stakeholders can submit comments by May 26, 2023.

He shared the Language Access Services staff is working with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) under contract to develop and conduct live webinars to assist with remote interpreting and was invited to be the moderator and to serve as a panelist on an educational webinar, on May 18, specifically for judges focusing on family law domestic violence cases and remote hearings with interpretation. The diverse panel also includes a trial court judge, court

interpreter, and domestic violence advocate.

Lastly, Justice Rodriguez shared Judge Covarrubias plans to retire from the bench on April 30 and recognized and thanked him for his almost 30 years as a judicial officer and particularly, his tireless efforts and commitment to access to justice and language access in state courts.

Info 2: Self-Help Guide

Senior Analyst Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth provided a presentation, including a demonstration of the California Courts Online Self-Help Guide's newly dedicated language webpages, on staging site. Staff is working with council Information Technology/Webcontent staff to launch the language drop-down feature later this year.

Info 3: Review Approved 2023 Language Access Projects

Language Access Services staff reviewed the two approved 2023 language access projects:

1. Language Access Signage and Technology (S&T) Grants: Senior Analyst Irene Balajadia provided a presentation on the S&T Grants, including an update on the Cycle 5, Fiscal Year, 2023-24, application period which launched on March 27, 2023, and closed on April 21, 2023. She also highlighted three courts (Butte, San Bernardino, and Sutter Superior Courts) for their completed grant projects from the first three cycles of the grant.

2. Public Outreach for the Online California Courts Self-Help Guide: Senior Analyst Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth reviewed and discussed proposed strategies to support public outreach and help ensure that multilingual resources on the California Courts Online Self-Help Guide are reaching LEP communities.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on April 2, 2024.