



Judicial Council of California

Advisory Committee on Providing
Access & Fairness

www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm
accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

October 19, 2023

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Zoom

Advisory Body Members Present:	Hon. Kevin Brazile (Cochair), Hon. Rebekah Evenson, Hon. Amy Guerra, Ms. Janet Hudec, Hon. Clare Keithley, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Hon. Sunil Kulkarni, Hon. Richard Lee, Hon. Cynthia Loo, Ms. Shirley Luo, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Ms. Nina Magno, Hon. Lia Martin, Mr. Lawrence Meyer, Ms. Kemi Mustapha, Ms. Andrea Pella, Hon. Michael Rhoads, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Laura Walton, Mr. Mitchell Wunsch.
Advisory Body Members Absent:	Hon. Victor Rodriguez (Cochair), Ms. Morgan Baxter, Hon. Judith Dulcich, Ms. Ana Maria Garcia, Ms. Julie Paik, Mr. Michael Powell, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, Ms. Twila White.
Others Present:	Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Anna Maves, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Ms. Aviva Simon, Ms. Kristine Custodio Suero, Mr. Gregory Tanaka.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 17, 2023, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting.

Motion to approve by Mr. Lawrence Meyer. Judges Laura Walton and Rebekah Evenson abstained from voting. The motion carries.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-2)

Item 1

Welcome to the New Committee Members

Presenter: *Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts*

Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson introduced new members of the committee whose term started on September 15, 2024. As lead staff, she thanked them for their commitment to access and fairness and informed them to reach out to her if they would like to join any working groups.

Item 2

Racial Justice Toolkit for Judicial Officers and Court Staff

Presenter: *Hon. Elizabeth G. Macias, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Orange, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group*

Judge Elizabeth Macias gave committee members a brief overview of the Racial Justice Toolkit, the origins of the working group, and the reasons why they created the toolkit. The toolkit is an online hub of information with links to helpful reports and resources related to racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson presented a visual of the website and encouraged committee members to submit any questions or feedback. Members discussed the possibility of replicating this model to address other aspects of diversity in the future.

Action: *Motion to approve the Racial Justice Toolkit and Report to the Judicial Council by Judge Victoria Kolakowski and seconded by Judge Lia. Motion carries.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.



2024 JUDICIAL COUNCIL ADVISORY BODY NOMINATIONS FORM

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Hon. Mr. Ms. Mx.

Candidate's name: _____ Title: _____

Court/entity/business name: _____

Official court/entity/business mailing address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Please check here if nominee is an incumbent.
- Presiding judge, court executive officer, or supervisor, as appropriate, has been advised that candidate has applied or been nominated for appointment to a Judicial Council advisory body.*

Candidate's previous Judicial Council, advisory body, task force, and working group memberships:

Particular areas of expertise in the field of law or court administration (for lawyer applicants, include specific areas of practice and level of experience):

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Self-nomination

Hon. Mr. Ms. Mx.

Nominator's name: _____ Title: _____

Court/entity/business name: _____

Official court/entity/business mailing address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Candidate has been contacted and has indicated a willingness to serve, if appointed.*
- Candidate's biography or curriculum vitae is attached (**nomination is incomplete without it**).*

* Red check boxes must be checked for the form to be processed.

PLEASE RETURN VIA EMAIL NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2024.

Judicial Council Support | JCCNominations@jud.ca.gov

2024 ADVISORY BODY MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

(All the membership categories listed represent vacancies for which nominations are being solicited in this cycle.)
Check one box for each position that you are interested in or that you are nominating a candidate for.

Advisory Committee on Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch

- Appellate court justice
- Superior court judge
- Trial court judge
- Appellate clerk/executive officer
- Court executive officer

Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Lawyer whose primary area of practice is civil law

Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Lawyer whose primary area of expertise is criminal defense
- Deputy district attorney or other attorney who represents the People of the State of California in criminal matters

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

- Trial court judicial officer
- Legal services lawyer
- Court executive officer or trial court manager who has experience with self-represented litigants
- Judicial administrator

Appellate Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Appellate clerk/executive officer
- Trial court judicial administrator
- Criminal defense appellate lawyer
- Appellate lawyer of the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court

Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Committee

- Sitting judicial officer
- Judicial administrator

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee

- Trial court judicial officer
- Judicial administrator
- Lawyer whose primary area of practice is civil law
- Legal secretary
- Person knowledgeable about small claims law and procedure

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

- Judicial officer
- Judicial administrator
- Criminal defense attorney
- District attorney
- Law enforcement
- Social services representative
- Treatment/Rehab provider
- Public member

Court Facilities Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Superior court judge
- Lawyer
- Local government official or administrator
- Public member with expertise in real estate acquisition, construction, architecture, cost estimating, or facilities management and operations

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel

- Court administrator
- Certified or registered court interpreter employed with a trial court in interpreter bargaining Region 3
- Certified or registered court interpreter employed with a trial court in interpreter bargaining Region 4
- Advisor (court manager in interpreter services or certified ASL interpreter)

Court Security Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Trial court judicial administrator

Criminal Law Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judicial officer
- Judicial administrator
- Criminal defense lawyer
- Probation officer

Data Analytics Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judicial officer
- Court staff with data and information management expertise

Executive Committee of the Court Executives Advisory Committee

- Court executive officer (court with 6–15 judges)
- Court executive officer (court with 16–47 judges)

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judicial officer
- Lawyer whose primary practice area is family law
- Lawyer from a public or private defender's office whose primary practice area is juvenile law
- Public-interest children's rights lawyer

Information Technology Advisory Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judicial officer
- Trial court information officer
- Public member

Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program Advisory Committee

- Trial courts and state judicial branch entities knowledgeable about workers' compensation matters
- Court executive officer
- Appellate court/executive officer
- Human resources professional

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

- Trial court judge
- Court administrator
- Attorney who has experience with legal aid services, self-represented litigants, or community economic development
- Public member

Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee

- Judicial officer with experience in probate
- Lawyer or examiner who works for the court on probate or mental health matters
- Lawyer whose primary practice involves decedents' estates, trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, or elder abuse law
- Investigator who works for the court to investigate probate guardianships or conservatorships

Traffic Advisory Committee

- Trial court judicial officer
- Judicial administrator
- Juvenile hearing officer
- Criminal defense lawyer

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

- Trial court presiding judge
- Court executive officer

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

- Court executive officer

Non-Judicial Council Advisory Body**California Access to Justice Commission**

- Appellate justice/judicial officer/attorney/judicial administrator

California State-Federal Judicial Council

- Superior court judge¹

¹ Superior court judges from these counties are encouraged to apply: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.



2024 JUDICIAL COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FORM

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Hon. Mr. Ms. Mx.

Candidate's name: _____ Title: _____

Court/entity/business name: _____

Official court/entity/business mailing address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Please check here if candidate is an incumbent.
- Presiding judge, court executive officer, or supervisor, as appropriate, has been advised that candidate has applied or been nominated for appointment to a Judicial Council education committee.*

Center for Judicial Education and Research—related experience:

Other teaching and/or education experience:

Other relevant qualifications and experience:

Please let us know why you are interested in serving on a Judicial Council education committee:

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Self-nomination

Hon. Mr. Ms. Mx.

Nominator's name: _____ Title: _____

Court/entity/business name: _____

Official court/entity/business mailing address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Candidate has been contacted and has indicated a willingness to serve if appointed.*
- Candidate's biography or curriculum vitae is attached (**nomination is incomplete without it**).*

* Red check boxes must be checked for the form to be processed.

PLEASE RETURN VIA EMAIL NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2024.

Judicial Council Support | JCCNominations@jud.ca.gov

2024 EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

(All the membership categories listed represent vacancies for which nominations are being solicited in this cycle.)
Check one box for each position that you are interested in or that you are nominating a candidate for.

Appellate Practice Curriculum Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court appellate division judge
- Appellate court judicial attorney
- Appellate court human resources professional

Civil Law Curriculum Committee

- Trial court judge
- Trial court commissioner
- Trial court attorney

Criminal Law Curriculum Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Trial court commissioner
- Appellate court attorney

Family Law Curriculum Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Trial court commissioner
- Appellate court judicial attorney

Judicial Branch Access, Ethics, and Fairness Curriculum Committee

- Trial court judge

Judicial Branch Leadership Development Curriculum Committee

- Trial court leader
- Court security subject matter expert

Juvenile Law Curriculum Committee

- Appellate court justice
- Trial court judge
- Trial court commissioner
- Appellate court attorney
- Trial court attorney

Probate Law Curriculum Committee

- Trial court judge
- Trial court commissioner
- Trial court probate examiner
- Trial court probate attorney

Trial Court Operations Curriculum Committee

- Trial court staff
- Human resources professional

If applying for multiple curriculum committees, please indicate your first choice below:

First choice: _____



Addressing Implicit Bias in Jury Service

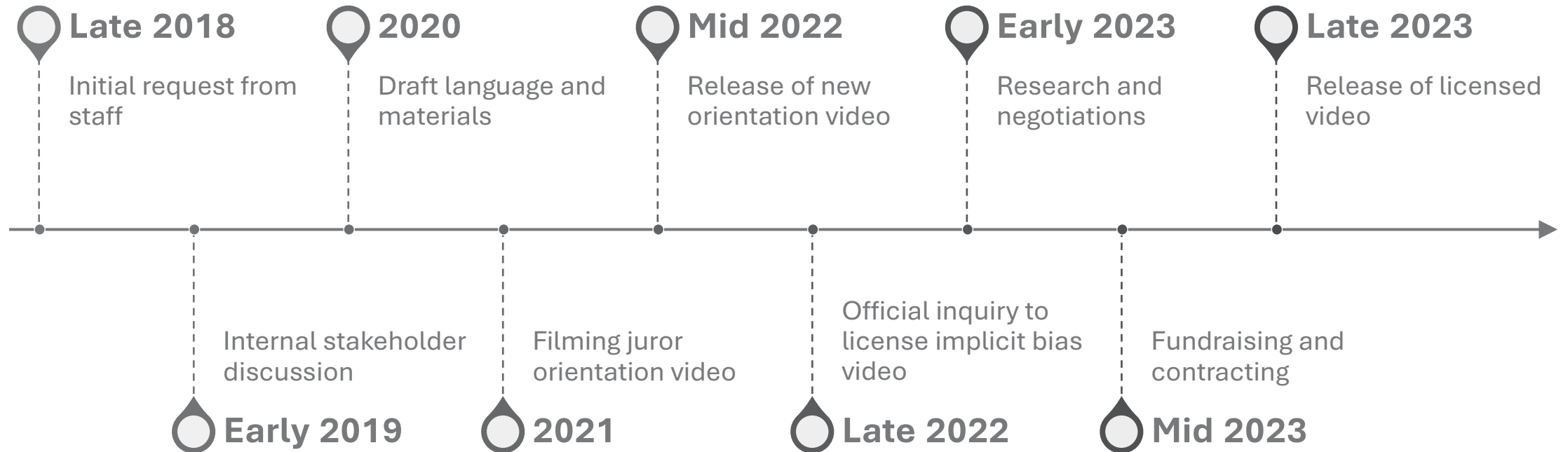
Mr. Stephen Michael Tow, Senior Analyst,
Jury Improvement Program Lead Staff

February 15, 2024

Implicit Bias in Jury Service

- Tackling bias has been a core concern of jury reform in California since at least the Blue Ribbon Commission in 1996
- Research and understanding of implicit bias has substantially increased since 2019, resulting in new best practices
- The Jury Improvement Program supports implicit bias education for jurors, the use of implicit bias jury instructions, and expanding implicit bias training to court staff as well as judicial officers

Timeline of Recent Action



Addressing Implicit Bias in Jury Service

- Collect research that relies on data-driven and evidence-based practices
- Present findings on existing disparities and potential impacts
- Facilitate discussion to implement specific policies

Current & Proposed Materials for Jurors

New and updated
juror orientation
video

New implicit bias
orientation video

Juror handbook
implicit bias
section

Implicit bias jury
instructions

Implicit bias
section for
deliberations
guide

CJER Jury Bench
Book with implicit
bias guidance

Thank You

Contact Jury Improvement Program (JIP) at
JuryInfo@jud.ca.gov

Contact me at Stephen.Tow@jud.ca.gov
or 415-865-7612



Bulletin for Interpreters on the Texas ASL Court Interpreter Certification, 2024



Effective January 1, 2024, the California judicial branch now recognizes two credentials for American Sign Language (ASL) court interpreters:

- **Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L)**, formerly offered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
- **Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Court Interpreter Certification (CIC)**, offered by the Texas Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)

You can find the council report [here](#) that led to the acceptance of the Texas BEI CIC credential.

This bulletin is designed to assist (1) ASL interpreters interested in taking the Texas BEI examination for court interpreter certification and (2) existing holders of the Texas BEI CIC who want to apply to the California Court Interpreters Program (CIP) for reciprocity and be added to the Judicial Council [Master List](#) of California Certified Court and Registered Interpreters. It also includes information on compliance, continuing education, and training.

I. Information for Persons Wanting to Take the Texas BEI CIC Examination

Candidates who do not hold the SC:L or Texas BEI CIC and wish to be considered certified in California must study for the Texas BEI CIC and travel to Austin, Texas at their own expense to take the required examination(s). For information about the CIC, visit the Texas CIC [webpage](#).

Eligibility Requirements

To sit for the Texas BEI court performance test, the candidate must meet Texas' established [eligibility requirements](#) for court certification. Once eligibility requirements have been met, you must contact BEI at dhhs.bei@hhs.texas.gov to begin the application process.

A candidate must already be BEI certified at the Advanced or Master level or hold a RID certification (Comprehensive Skills Certificate, Certificate of Interpretation/Certificate of Transliteration, Reverse Skills Certificate, Certified Deaf Interpreter, Master Comprehensive Skills Certificate, National Interpreter Certification Advanced, or National Interpreter Certification Master).

In addition, the candidate must have passed the Texas or California court interpreter written test before being eligible to sit for the signing/performance test. See also below for more information on the written examination.

If the candidate does not have RID or BEI certification (Advanced or Master level), the candidate may opt to pursue BEI general certifications. The general certification process includes a written exam (Test of English Proficiency (TEP)) and then a performance test (Basic,

Advanced, and Master). For out-of-state candidates seeking a Texas BEI general certification, there are two options. A candidate can choose to apply for and schedule a TEP written test first (traveling to a designated testing site within Texas), then upon passing, apply to take the performance test (traveling to Austin, Texas). A second option is to join a waitlist for a special two-day, back-to-back testing session (TEP one day, performance test the next day). Texas tries to offer these special testing sessions in Austin twice a year (often around March and August).

Written Examination

CIP staff have confirmed that the Texas written examination is the same National Center for State Courts (NCSC) written examination administered to aspiring interpreters in California, and candidates may take the written exam in California and submit their scores to Texas as long as they score 80% or higher. The candidate will need to provide a copy of the written examination test results to the BEI office when scheduling the court performance test.

Certified Deaf Interpreters

Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs) are eligible to take the BEI CIC examination. CDIs who also possess the BEI CIC credential may apply to be added to the council's Master List.

Taking the Test

Individuals who apply to take the Texas BEI CIC test can expect to be scheduled for a test date approximately 4-6 months after their application is considered complete (prerequisites met, payment received, background check complete, etc.). In most instances, test results are released within 90 days of the test date. There is a helpful study guide on the Texas BEI CIC located [here](#).

II. Information for Persons Who Already Hold the Texas BEI CIC

Reciprocity

Individuals who hold the Texas BEI CIC and are in good standing with Texas may apply for reciprocity and are highly encouraged to do so. CDIs who also possess the BEI CIC credential may also apply to be added to the council's Master List.

To be considered certified in California, persons with the BEI CIC will need to apply to CIP for reciprocity to be officially added to the Master List. The reciprocity application is available at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/2693.htm>. Once individuals successfully apply to CIP and are added to the Master List, they will be eligible to work in the California courts as a certified ASL court interpreter either in-person or remotely.

Enrollment and Annual Fee

Effective January 1, 2024, there is a fee of \$100 for new ASL court interpreters to be enrolled with the council and added to the Master List. Thereafter, a \$100 annual renewal fee is due for

each year. In the November 2023 council report, staff recommended that existing ASL court interpreters and new ASL interpreters added through reciprocity pay the \$100 annual renewal fee so that the program can more accurately track the number, status, and contact information of ASL court interpreters who are on the Master List. Fees collected will be deposited into the Court Interpreters' Fund, which gathers annual renewal payments from California certified and registered interpreters and supports interpreter training and other program efforts.

III. Continuing Education, Training, and Exemption Period

Continuing Education

Interpreters who hold the Texas BEI CIC will need to comply with Texas' continuing education and any other of its requirements to maintain their certification. The Texas policy manual covering eligibility, training requirements, renewal process, and the like can be found [here](#).

The council does not have continuing education requirements for ASL court interpreters. However, ASL court interpreters will need to stay compliant with the continuing education and other requirements from their certifying body (either RID or the Texas BEI).

Online Training

The NCSC, under contract with the council's Language Access Services Program, developed an online course that will be available for certified ASL court interpreters who are enrolled with the council. The course is anticipated to be available in early 2024, through a new learning management system for credentialed interpreters.

Exemption Period

The recommendations approved by the council were to create a temporary exemption of at least four years to recognize the Texas BEI CIC. Prior to the end of the four-year exemption period, the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) will provide a status update and recommend to the council whether to extend recognition of the Texas DHHS BEI as an approved testing entity for ASL court interpreter certification for another four-year period. Persons who possess the BEI CIC and are added to the Master List through reciprocity will not need to reapply for reciprocity at the end of the four-year period, if they remain in good standing.

IV. Additional Information

If you need additional information, please contact the Court Interpreters Program at courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov.