



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 17, 2024

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Via Zoom

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Victor Rodriguez (Cochair), Hon. Jose Castillo, Hon. Thomas Delaney, Hon. Monica Diaz, Hon. Amy Guerra, Hon. Clare Keithley, Hon. Esther Kim, Ms. Shirley Luo, Ms. Nina Magno, Ms. Kemi Mustapha, Ms. Julie Paik, Mr. Michael Powell, Hon. Michael Rhoads, Hon. Laura Walton, and Mr. Mitchell Wunsh.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Kein Brazile (Cochair), Ms. Morgan Baxter, Hon. Rebekah Evenson, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Hon. Cynthia Loo, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Mr. Lawrence Meyer, Ms. Andrea Pella, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Jule Weng-Gutierrez, and Ms. Twila White.

Others Present: Hon. Jacqueline Jackson, Ms. Eunice Lee, Hon. Martha Matthews, Ms. Anna Maves, Hon. Julie Palafox, Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Ms. Heather Resetarits, Ms. Chio Saepanh, Ms. Norissa Stewart, Ms. Melanie Snider, and Mr. Greg Tanaka.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m., and staff took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 15, 2024, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting and the September 26, 2024, action by email. Motion to approve by Judge Clare Keithly, seconded by Judge Laura Walton. There were no oppositions or abstentions.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-2)

Item 1

2025 Draft Annual Agenda Review and Approval (Action Required)

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

The committee reviewed the 2025 draft annual agenda. There is one new implementation project and six ongoing implementation projects for 2025. The new project is titled Implementation of Superior Court Lactation Accommodation Procedure (Sen. Bill 949). Staff will develop a proposal to implement Senate Bill 949 for superior courts. The proposal will outline a process for courts to offer lactating court users who are participating in an ongoing proceeding, a confidential request for a reasonable amount of break time

to express breast milk for their infant child. To comply with SB 949, PAF will draft a new form for court users, circulate the proposal for public comment, and address any public comments received.

Action: *Motion to approve the 2025 Draft Annual Agenda by Judge Michael Rhoads, seconded by Justice Thomas Delaney. There were no oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried.*

Item 2

Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission

(Action Required)

Presenter: *Ms. Melanie Snider, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families Children & the Courts*

The committee was provided with an update and report on the Equal Access Fund and California Access to Justice Commission. The report recommended approval of a distribution of \$250,000 to the California Access to Justice Commission for administration of a tax-advantaged student loan repayment assistance program for service providers employed by qualified legal service projects and support centers. The Judicial Council has been directed by Senate Bill 133 (Stats. 2023, Ch. 34) to take this ongoing action since fiscal year 2023–24.

Action: *Motion to approve the report and recommended \$250,000 distribution by Justice Thomas Delaney, seconded by Judge Clare Keithly. There were no oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried.*

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Welcome to New Committee Members and Liaisons

Presenter: *Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair; Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three*

Justice Victor Rodriguez welcomed the three new committee members and two new liaisons. He thanked each of them for their time and commitment to the committee and encouraged new committee members to join our subcommittee and/or working groups.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on 02/20/2025.