



## Judicial Council of California

Advisory Committee on Providing  
Access & Fairness

[www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm)  
[accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov](mailto:accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov)

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

#### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

June 26, 2025

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Virtual

---

<b>Advisory Body Members Present:</b>	Hon. Kevin Brazile (Cochair), Hon. Victor Rodriguez (Cochair), Hon. Jose Castillo, Hon. Monica Diaz, Hon. Rebekah Evenson, Hon. Esther Kim, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Ms. S. Lynn Martinez, Ms. Kemi Mustapha, Hon. Michael Rhoads, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, Hon. Terry Truong, Hon. Laura Walton, Hon. Julie Weng-Gutierrez, and Mr. Mitchell Wunsh.
<b>Advisory Body Members Absent:</b>	Ms. Morgan Baxter, Hon. Thomas Delaney, Hon. Amy Guerra, Hon. Clare Keithley, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Hon. Cynthia Loo, Ms. Shirley Luo, Ms. Nina Magno, Mr. Lawrence Meyer, Ms. Julie Paik, Ms. Andrea Pella, Mr. Michael Powell, Ms. Katy Van Sant, and Ms. Twila White.
<b>Others Present:</b>	Ms. Kristin Burford, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Frances Ho, Mr. Cyrus Ip, Ms. Sarah Jacobvitz, Hon. Jacqueline Jackson, Ms. Youn Kim, Ms. Eunice Lee, Hon. Martha Matthews, Ms. Anna Maves, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Ms. Chio Saephanh, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, and Mr. Greg Tanaka, Mr. Rodney Trevino, and Hon. Monica Wiley.

---

#### 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 April 17, 2025, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting. Judge Lia Martin requested to revise a portion of the minutes text from “Moted” to “Moved,” then she moved to approve the revised minutes. Judge Elizabeth Macias seconded that motion. With no oppositions or abstentions, the motion carried.

Justice Rodriguez provided committee members a brief update on the Language Access Subcommittee. The Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7, draft report with recommendations and proposed allocations to fund 17 courts will go to the Judicial Council for approval at its business meeting on July 18, 2025. Also, the National Center for State Courts presented at the June 17, 2025, subcommittee meeting on their research conducted and training resources developed for court staff on the appropriate use of the California Courts Translator. points

---

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)**

---

**Item 1**

**Invitation to Summit: Improving Access to Justice Through Recognition & Enforcement of Tribal Court Orders**

Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson invited members to attend the Improving Access to Justice Through Recognition & Enforcement of Tribal Court Orders summit hosted by the Tribal State Programs unit, on September 19, 2025. The event flyer and link to register was included in the meeting materials.

---

**ADJOURNMENT**

---

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

---

**CLOSED SESSION**

---

**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory body reviewed and approved the closed portion minutes of the April 17, 2025, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting.

**Item 1**

**Accommodations for Court Users to Pump or Express Breast Milk**

Presenter: *Ms. Sarah Jacobvitz, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts*

The committee considered a rules and forms proposal to implement Senate Bill 949 (Stats. 2024, Ch. 159), which requires all courts to grant users participating in court proceedings a reasonable amount of break time to express milk for their infant child, and mandates that the Judicial Council create a confidential process for users to make the request.

Adjourned closed session at 12:33.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.



# Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

---

## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.:*

For business meeting on October 23-24, 2025

---

**Title**

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

**Report Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

October 24, 2025

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Date of Report**

August 11, 2025

**Recommended by**

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Hon. Keven C. Brazile, Cochair

Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Cochair

**Contact**

Melanie Snider, 916-263-5442

[melanie.snider@jud.ca.gov](mailto:melanie.snider@jud.ca.gov)

---

### Executive Summary

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends the approval of a distribution of \$5.250 million to the California Access to Justice Commission for grants to civil legal aid nonprofits to support the infrastructure and innovations needs of legal services in civil matters for indigent persons, and for administration of a tax-advantaged student loan repayment program.

### Recommendation

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends that the Judicial Council, effective October 24, 2025, approve a distribution of \$5,250,000.00 to the California Access to Justice Commission for grants to civil legal aid nonprofits and administration of a tax-advantaged student loan repayment assistance program, as authorized by the Budget Act of 2025 and Senate Bill 133 (Stats. 2023, ch. 34).

### Relevant Previous Council Action

Since fiscal year 2021–22, the state Budget Act has directed the Judicial Council to distribute \$5 million annually in Equal Access Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission for

grants to nonprofit civil legal aid providers (Links A, B, C, and D). A final report on the grants to the providers made by the commission in the third year of funding is included as Attachment A. Beginning in fiscal year 2023–24, the state Budget Act directed the Judicial Council to distribute \$250,000 in Equal Access Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission for administration of a tax–advantaged student loan repayment assistance program for legal aid attorneys employed by qualified legal services projects and support centers (Link E).

In December of 2024, the Governor signed Senate Bill X1 2, which allocated \$5 million to the Access to Justice Commission for legal services to protect the constitutional and legal rights of vulnerable populations (Links F and G). A report on the grants made for providers is included as Attachment B.

### **Analysis/Rationale**

The California Access to Justice Commission is an independent nonprofit agency. The Budget Act of 2025 (Link H) provides that \$5 million be distributed by the Judicial Council to the commission for grants to nonprofit civil legal aid providers, including qualified legal services providers and support centers, to be used to support the infrastructure and innovation needs of legal services in civil matters for indigent people. The commission may use up to 2.5 percent of these funds for administrative costs associated with distributing and monitoring the grants<sup>1</sup> (Link E).

Additionally, beginning in fiscal year 2023–24, SB 133 directs the Judicial Council to distribute an additional \$250,000.00 of Equal Access Funds annually to the Access to Justice Commission for administration of a tax–advantaged student loan repayment assistance program for legal aid attorneys employed by qualified legal services projects and support centers. The Commission reports to Judicial Council staff on the administration of the program each year.

### **Policy implications**

This recommendation helps implement Goal I of the Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch—Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion. By increasing representation and supporting the infrastructure needs of legal services in civil matters for indigent people, these funds will expand equal access to the courts, court proceedings, and programs.

### **Comments**

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendations are within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation.

### **Alternatives considered**

No alternatives were considered because the funding is allocated as directed by the Budget Act of 2025.

---

<sup>1</sup> Stats. 2025, ch. 4, item 0250-101-0001, provision 2.

## Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The funds for the California Access to Justice Commission require no court implementation because all funds will be provided as grants to legal services agencies.

## Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: California Access to Justice Commission, *Legal Aid Infrastructure & Innovation Report on Year 3 Grant Awards* (Dec. 2024)
2. Attachment B: California Access to Justice Commission, *Annual Report on Grants to Serve Vulnerable Communities Pursuant to Judicial Council Contract 115970* (Mar. 2025)
3. Link A: Judicial Council Rep., Aug. 26, 2024, *Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13262106&GUID=EA6FF99C-367C-4603-9896-DFE54072FF1E>
4. Link B: Judicial Council Rep., Aug. 11, 2023, *Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12245978&GUID=38448FB7-D433-4E1B-80E1-BA6DF4AA820E>
5. Link C: Judicial Council Rep., Aug. 18, 2022, *Equal Access Fund: California Access to Justice Commission Grants*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11204297&GUID=6F13C8DB-71E8-43D8-A4C6-35E695DA112D>
6. Link D: Judicial Council Rep., Aug. 30, 2021, *Equal Access Fund: California Access to Justice Commission Grants*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9785553&GUID=9D1E060E-3A50-45FC-A3D7-990FB095A312>
7. Link E: Senate Bill 133 (Stats. 2023, ch. 34),  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB133](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB133)
8. Link F: Senate Bill X1 2,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520261SB2](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520261SB2)
9. Link G: Circulating Order Memorandum, Feb. 10, 2025, *Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Fund Augmentation for California Access to Justice Commission*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1282323&GUID=C7A67992-AB8D-47CD-A31F-7F8A8317CE5E>
10. Link H: The Budget Act of 2025 (Senate Bill 101; Stats. 2025, ch. 4),  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB101](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB101)

**California Access to Justice Commission  
Legal Aid Infrastructure & Innovation Year 3 Grant Awards**

<b>Description of Funded Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
AIDS Legal Referral Panel of the San Francisco Bay Area	\$100,000
Alameda County Homeless Action Center (HAC)	45,000
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)	185,000
California Indian Legal Services (CILS)	165,000
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA)	55,000
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California, Inc. (CGRS)	141,000
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)	164,000
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLS)	88,000
Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC)	85,000
Dolores Street Community Services	65,000
Elevate Community Center	25,000
Immigrant Legal Defense (ILD)	188,000
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA)	129,000
Inland Counties Legal Services, Inc. (ICLS)	152,000
Inner City Law Center (ICLC)	125,000
Jubilee Immigration Advocates	47,000
Justice At Last, Inc.	50,000
LACBA Counsel for Justice (CFJ)	149,000
Latin Advocacy Network-LATINAN	117,000
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (SF Bay Area) (LCCRSF)	150,000
Legal Access Alameda	94,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)	200,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	38,000
Legal Aid of Marin	158,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County (LASC)	80,000
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)	100,000
Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS)	86,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly, Inc. (LAE)	82,000
Legal Services for Children, Inc. (LSC)	142,000
Loyola Marymount University (Loyola Social Justice Law Clinic or LSJLC)	92,000
Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS)	50,000
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)	144,000
Mobile Pathways	155,000
National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)	235,000

<b>Description of Funded Project</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)	105,000
Public Interest Law Project (PILP)	80,000
Public Law Center (PLC)	98,000
Senior Advocacy Network (SAN)	50,000
Senior Legal Services (aka Senior Citizens Legal Services) (SLS)	155,000
Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization	60,000
Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC)	250,000
The Congress of Neutrals (TCON)	60,000
The Impact Fund	46,000
Veterans Legal Institute (VLI)	90,000
<b>TOTAL GRANT AWARDS</b>	<b>\$4,875,000</b>

**California Access to Justice Commission  
Grants to Serve Vulnerable Communities Pursuant to Judicial Council  
Contract 115970**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
The ABA Immigration Justice Project (IJP)	\$125,000
AIDS Legal Referral Panel	50,000
The Alliance for Children's Rights (the Alliance)	50,000
Bet Tzedek	75,000
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ) (for six organizations)	1,100,000
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (CRLAF)	130,000
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California (CGRS)	75,000
Center for Immigrant Protection's	100,000
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)	125,000
Centro Legal de la Raza	150,000
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)	125,000
East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)	125,000
Education and Leadership Foundation (ELF)	100,000
Garment Worker Center	75,000
Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Orange County (dba LGBTQ Center OC)	120,000
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)	50,000
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA)	175,000
The Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ)	125,000
The International Rescue Committee (IRC)	75,000
Jubilee Immigration Advocates (Jubilee)	30,000
Justice and Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC)	75,000
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)	120,000
Latin Advocacy Network (LATINAN)	100,000
Learning Rights Center Learning Rights Law Center (LRLC)	25,000
Legal Aid of Marin	128,000
Legal Aid of San Mateo (Legal Aid SMC)	50,000
Legal Services for Children, Inc. (LSC)	100,000
Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC)	50,000
Loyola Marymount University (Loyola Social Justice Law Clinic or LSJLC)	78,000
Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)	100,000
National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)	100,000
Oasis Legal Services	125,000
Opening Doors, Inc.	75,000
Pangea Legal Services	100,000
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)	85,000
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation (SLOLAF)	60,000
Social Justice Collaborative (SJC)	100,000
Southern California Immigrant Project Southern California Immigration Project (SCIP)	50,000

Description	Grant Amount
The Impact Fund	71,000
DEC Legal Center Perris (TODEC)	138,000
Transgender Law Center (TLC)	50,000
The Watsonville Law Center (WLC)	75,000
The Youth Law Center (YLC)	40,000
<b>TOTAL GRANT AWARDS</b>	<b>\$4,875,000</b>