



Judicial Council of California

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION
(DRAFT)**

August 20, 2026

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Zoom

Members Present: Hon. Kevin Brazile (Cochair), Hon. Victor Rodriguez (Cochair), Ms. Morgan Baxter, Ms. Shelly Caterino, Hon. Thomas Delaney, Hon. Monica Diaz, Hon. Rebekah Evenson, Hon. Clare Keithley, Hon. Esther Kim, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Ms. Nina Magno, Ms. S. Lynn Martinez, Mr. Michael Powell, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, and Ms. Katy Van Sant.

Members Absent: Hon. Jose Castillo, Hon. Cynthia Loo, Ms. Shirley Luo, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Hon. Lia Martin, Ms. Julie Paik, Hon. Mickie Reed, Hon. Michael Rhoads, Hon. Laura Walton, and Hon. Julie Weng-Gutierrez.

Others Present: Ms. Francisca Camarillo, Mr. Benito Camarillo, Mr. Juan Carlos Diaz, Ms. Joycelyn Chow, Ms. Sarah Davis, Mr. Douglas Denton, Hon. Candice Garcia-Rodrigo, Ms. Laura Gonzalez, Ms. Yaneli M. Guajardo, Ms. Tatjana Gruner, Ms. Frances Ho, Mr. Cyrus Ip, Hon. Jacqueline Jackson, Ms. Youn Kim, Ms. Joann Lee, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Anna Maves, Mr. Russell McGregor, Ms. Cassandra McTaggart, Ms. Lucia Mendoza, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Ms. Heather Resetarits, Ms. Chio Saephanh, Mr. Rodney Trevino, Ms. Aggie Wong, and Mr. Wenchao Zhen.

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 open session minutes of the June 18, 2026, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting. Judge Kevin Brazile moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Shelly Caterino seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion carried. Ms. Fariba Soroosh and Ms. Lynn Martinez abstained from voting.

Public Comments

The committee acknowledged receipt and was given proper opportunity to review written comments provided by Ms. Norma Ventura from California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., prior to this meeting.

The committee heard from five public commenters; Ms. Joann Lee, Ms. Yaneli Guajardo, Mr. Wenchao Zhen, Ms. Francisca Camarillo, and Mr. Juan Carlos Diaz, via live video feed, with the

assistance of language interpreters, on subjects relevant to items on this meeting's agenda and the committee's work at large.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Equal Access Fund: 2026-27 Distribution of Funds to the Access to Justice Commission (Action Required)

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

Ms. Melanie Snider provided committee members a brief history of the Equal Access Fund and an explanation of the proposed distributions of funds that were outlined in the Judicial Council report included in the meeting materials. The committee was asked to recommend to the Judicial Council the allocation/distribution of those funds.

Action: Judge Rebeca Evenson moved to approve the proposed distribution of Equal Access funds to the Access to Justice Commission and request that the Judicial Council consider them at the next council meeting in October 2026. Judge Kevin Brazile seconded the motion, and with no opposition, the motion passed.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Item 1

Language Access Subcommittee Update

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

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2026.

Item 2

Review 2025 Language Access Data Tool Results

Presenter: *Ms. Aggie Wong, Senior Analyst, Language Access Implementation Unit*

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(D)(10))

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the closed session minutes of the June 18, 2026, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting.

Item 1

Review and Discuss 2027 PAF Annual Agenda Projects (No Action Required)

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

The committee reviewed proposed projects for the 2027 PAF Annual Agenda and reviewed the timeline for the agenda approval process.

Adjourned closed session at 1:08 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.