

COUNCIL ON ACCESS & FAIRNESS MISSION STATEMENT

The Council on Access & Fairness shall be appointed by the Board of Governors to advise the Board on strategies to enhance diversity opportunities and advancement in the legal profession within legal standards. “Opportunities” encompasses leadership development and appointments to State Bar entities, as well as initiatives to educate students about the law and career opportunities in the law, referred to as education “pipeline” initiatives. “Advancement” encompasses recruitment, employment, retention and advancement in the legal profession. The Council will also screen candidates for the Annual Diversity Awards.

The Council will be composed of 25 attorney and public members appointed by the Board of Governors. Its membership consists of individuals representing a wide range of stakeholders and constituencies engaged in programs and initiatives focusing on increasing diversity in the legal profession. Members from the Council will be drawn from diverse constituencies, including but not limited to: race, ethnic and national origin constituencies; gender constituencies; age constituencies; sexual orientation and transgender constituencies; disability constituencies; large, small and solo firms; government and public sector practice; domestic corporate and private firm practice; law schools; educational system constituencies (P-12, colleges and universities); and the judiciary; consistent with State Bar appointments policies and diversity criteria. The Council will report to the Board of Governors Committee on Stakeholder Relations.

The Council, as with the State Bar’s diversity program, is funded by voluntary contributions. No mandatory State Bar licensing fees are used to fund these activities.