

2008 Accomplishments California Commission on Access to Justice

Policy Development

- Held a major 2-day **Symposium on Access to Justice and Joint Planning Day** with key stakeholders in April 2008, to address legal aid recruitment and retention, language barriers, rural issues, and expanding the right to counsel in civil cases.
- Launched a new effort to analyze **barriers in administrative agencies**, develop best practices and recommend ways to overcome unnecessary barriers.
- Worked with the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) to analyze the **impact of the recession** on legal services programs, considering ways to address the crisis.
- Began Stage II of the **Right to Counsel** effort, following the drafting of two model statutes; Stage II involves communication efforts to publicize the need, research to determine substantive areas of possible focus, and outreach to the legal services community to plan for implementation. The Commission also worked on possible legislation to establish a pilot representation project, focused on housing needs and other high priority cases.
- Our **Rural Task Force** prepared the first draft of a policy paper intended to focus attention on the serious lack of legal aid resources in rural areas.
- Our Pro Bono Task Force developed the Paul Boland **Bench-Bar Pro Bono Project** to increase judicial involvement in encouraging pro bono, to be launched in 2009 in conjunction with the first Pro Bono Week in October. The Task Force also worked with the Public Interest Clearinghouse and with courts, legal services programs and local bar leaders on the **Local Pro Bono Outreach Project** in Fresno, a pilot program designed to facilitate a pro bono pledge by solos and small firm attorneys accompanied by internet support for those attorneys to fulfill their pledge.
- Our **Federal Courts Committee**, composed of representatives from each of the federal districts in California, coordinated pro bono programs and self-help resources to ensure that each district could take advantage of the resources being developed elsewhere in the state.
- Research was conducted to determine **priority areas for the legal services delivery system**, as part of the Legal Services Coordinating Committee. The priority areas identified included recruitment and retention for legal services programs and the rural imbalance in resources, both of which have been priority concerns of the Commission.

Revenue Enhancement

- Helped raise over \$1 million the **first year of the Justice Gap Fund**. Worked with staff, the Trust Fund Commission, and other entities to conduct a successful outreach effort and plan for institutionalizing annual campaigns.
- Worked closely with LAAC and the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to **implement legislation establishing Comparability for IOLTA Accounts**.
- Provided testimony and materials at a **language access legislative hearing** on the need for increased funding for court interpreters in civil cases.
- Began developing a proposal to make **legal aid programs eligible for PERS benefits**.
- Worked with the **Bench-Bar Coalition** to ensure adequate resources for the courts, including self-help centers and Equal Access Fund.

Annual Training Events

- Conducted two programs at the State Bar Annual Meeting – one an **overview of access to justice developments**; the second a **roundtable discussion** with legal services representatives on key delivery system priorities.

Recognition

The Access Commission proudly sponsored its two annual awards:

- The **Aranda Judicial Award**, joint with the Judicial Council, California Judges Association, and the State Bar of California; the 2008 recipient was **Judge Francisco Firmat**, Supervising Judge, Family Law Panel, Superior Court of California, County of Orange, who implemented many court projects that significantly improved access to the courts; and
- The **Court Self-Help Staff award**, jointly with LAAC; the 2008 recipient was **Bonnie Rose Hough**, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts, whose leadership and vision have put California's courts at the cutting edge of efforts to ensure true access to the courts for self-represented litigants.

Publications

- Produced a **Report** of the proceedings and recommendations from the 2-day Symposium on Access to Justice and Joint Planning Day with key stakeholders held in April 2008.
- Continued to monitor implementation of the recommendations from the 2007 **Action Plan for Justice**.

Board of Governor Support

- Worked with the Board of Governors on an **access to justice planning session** scheduled for January of 2009.

Appointing Entities and Members – 2008

California Commission on Access to Justice

<p align="center">Governor, State of California</p> <p align="center">Honorable Andrew J. Guilford U.S. District Judge Central District of California Santa Ana</p> <p align="center">Appointment pending</p>	<p align="center">Judicial Council of California</p> <p align="center">Honorable Steven K. Austin Superior Court of Contra Costa County Martinez</p> <p align="center">Honorable Ronald Robie Third Appellate District Sacramento</p>		
<p align="center">President Pro Tem of the Senate</p> <p align="center">Rozenia Cummings San Ramon</p>	<p align="center">California Council of Churches</p> <p align="center">Robin Clinton Crawford Pacifica, CA</p>		
<p align="center">Speaker of the Assembly</p> <p align="center">Appointment pending</p>	<p align="center">League of Women Voters of California</p> <p align="center">Sylvia Martin-James, Retired Educator Riverside</p>		
<p align="center">California Attorney General</p> <p align="center">Ramon Alvarez Riverside</p>	<p align="center">California Chamber of Commerce</p> <p align="center">Erika C. Frank, General Counsel California Chamber of Commerce Sacramento</p>		
<p align="center">California Judges Association</p> <p align="center">Honorable James E. Herman</p>	<p align="center">California Labor Federation</p> <p align="center">Vacant</p>		
<p align="center">Consumer Attorneys of California</p> <p align="center">David N. Bigelow Girardi Keese Los Angeles</p>	<p align="center">Council of California County Law Librarians</p> <p align="center">Marcia Bell, Director San Francisco Law Library</p>		
<p align="center">State Bar of California</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p align="center">Kenneth W. Babcock Public Law Center Santa Ana</p> <p align="center">Sheila Calabro Judicial Council of California Burbank</p> <p align="center">Michelle E. Manzo McDermott, Will & Emery, LLP Los Angeles</p> <p align="center">Hon. Douglas P. Miller Court of Appeal, 4th Appellate District Riverside</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p align="center">Hon. Nho Trong Nguyen Superior Court, Orange County Westminster</p> <p align="center">Ekwan E. Rhow Bird Marella et al. APC Los Angeles</p> <p align="center">John G. Snetsinger Department of History California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo</p> <p align="center">Eric Wayne Wright Santa Clara University School of Law</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p align="center">Kenneth W. Babcock Public Law Center Santa Ana</p> <p align="center">Sheila Calabro Judicial Council of California Burbank</p> <p align="center">Michelle E. Manzo McDermott, Will & Emery, LLP Los Angeles</p> <p align="center">Hon. Douglas P. Miller Court of Appeal, 4th Appellate District Riverside</p>	<p align="center">Hon. Nho Trong Nguyen Superior Court, Orange County Westminster</p> <p align="center">Ekwan E. Rhow Bird Marella et al. APC Los Angeles</p> <p align="center">John G. Snetsinger Department of History California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo</p> <p align="center">Eric Wayne Wright Santa Clara University School of Law</p>
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**California Commission on Access to Justice
COMMITTEES**

COMMITTEES	CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS
Administrative Agency Committee	Co-Chairs: Eric Wright Jodie Berger
Aranda Award Selection Committee	Hon. Ronald Taylor
Awards Task Force	Toby Rothschild
Executive Committee	Steve Austin, Chair Ken Babcock, Vice Chair
Federal Courts Committee	Hon. Edward Chen
Funding Committee	Ken Babcock
Language Access Committee	Geoff Robinson
Pro Bono Task Force	Bob Long
Right To Counsel Committee	Co-Chairs: Hon. Earl Johnson Clare Pastore
Rural Task Force	Co-Chairs: Kathryn Eppright Herb Whitaker