

Commission on Impartial Courts Final Report Recommendations Impacting BOG

- Educational Outreach: Use State Bar and local bars to provide speakers to orient the public on the importance of impartial courts.
- Ask BOG to grant MCLE credits to attorneys conducting K-12 civics and law-related education programs.
- Establish an unofficial statewide fair judicial elections committee to educate candidates & media, to mediate conflicts and to issue public statements regarding campaign conduct in statewide and regional elections and in local elections where there is no local committee. Provide help to aid formation of local committees.
- Recommend collaboration among the AOC, the State Bar, CJA and the National Center for State Courts to develop brochures to educate judicial candidates.
- Encourage the State Bar to discipline attorney judicial candidates who engage in campaign misconduct (would need to go to RAD to develop new disciplinary regulation).
- Retain JNE, a special form of merit-based screening and selection that has served California well.
- JNE should consider, as one of the factors, the candidate's exposure to and experience with diverse populations and issues related to those populations.
- The background and diversity of the JNE members should be given more publicity including photographs of the members on the JNE webpage and making the webpage more accessible on the State Bar's home page.
- A JNE rating of "not qualified" should be made public automatically at the time of appointment of a person with that rating. This provision should be made by statutory amendment rather than rule change. The current practice of release of the rating for an appellate justice should be mandatory.
- JNE web site should be more accessible and should contain video explaining the process. Court web site and JNE should have more information about JNE procedures and rating system.
- BOG should amend JNE rules to require that any member of the BOG who attends a JNE meeting must comply with the JNE conflict-of-interest rules.
- Provide for participation of *all* candidates (including sitting judges) in contested and open elections in a JNE form of evaluation. Establish Judicial Council and BOG joint task force to make recommendations on implementation issues.
- JNE ratings in contested elections should be reported as part of the voter information.
- Request State Bar to offer course for potential applicants for judicial positions.