

AGENDA ITEM

NOVEMBER 31
**California Law Academy
Strategic Task Force
(CLAS) – Ratification of
Liaison Appointment**

DATE: October 19, 2010

TO: Members, Board of Governors

FROM: Patricia Lee, Special Assistant for Diversity and Bar Relations

SUBJECT: California Law Academy Strategic Task Force (CLAS) –
Ratification of Liaison Appointment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Law Academy Strategic Task Force (CLAS) has been created to convene thought leaders, decision makers and skilled experts from the legal profession to provide the necessary input and support for the CDE to create law themed schools in California.

President Bill Hebert has appointed Board Member Luis Rodriguez as the Board Liaison to the Task Force, effective September 29, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The California Partnership Academies (CPA) program was formed in 1984 under legislation that provided a source of revenue under the Education Code. The CPA program has grown to be an important part of California's secondary school system with currently over 470 California Partnership Academies. Less than ten of these 470 academies focus on law-related careers.

The State Bar of California has a unique opportunity to be the first profession to partner with the California Department of Education (CDE) in creating law-themed academies aimed at students who have an interest in entering all career pathways in the legal profession. The State Bar's role will be to advise in the formation of these academies, provide expertise related to all aspects of law related careers, assist with the training of

teachers, and coordinate resources for mentors, internships, speakers, and role models. It is a role only the legal profession can play to ensure that these students have the opportunity to take classes that will hone their critical thinking skills while introducing them to the law, lawyers, and all aspects of the legal profession.

The California Law Academy Strategic Task Force (CLAS) has been created to convene thought leaders, decision makers and skilled experts from the legal profession to provide the necessary input and support for the CDE to create law themed schools in California. President Bill Hebert has appointed Board Member Luis Rodriguez as the Board Liaison to the Task Force, given Mr. Rodriguez's prior experience as Chair of the Council on Access & Fairness and former service on the California Board of Education.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

No State Bar General Funds will be used for this project. State Bar support will be minimal and is covered through funding from voluntary contributions to the Elimination of Bias/Bar Relations Fund.

No additional staff will be required. Support will be provided by existing staff funded through the Elimination of Bias/Bar Relations Fund.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

The project promotes diversity in the legal profession through the building of the diversity pipeline, consistent with the Vision and Goals of the State Bar Strategic Plan.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

None

BOARD BOOK/ ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL IMPACT:

None

PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION:

Should the board concur with the President's CLAS liaison appointment, adoption of the following resolution would be in order:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors ratifies the appointment of Board of Governors member, Luis Rodriguez, as liaison to the California Law Academy Strategic Task Force, effective September 29, 2010.