

# AGENDA ITEM

**MARCH 131**  
**Lawyer Assistance Program**  
**2010 Annual Report**

**DATE:** February 18, 2011

**TO:** Members, Member Oversight Committee  
Members, Board of Governors

**FROM:** Philip Belleville, Chair, Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee  
Janis Thibault, Director, Lawyer Assistance Program  
Richard Carlton, Special Assistant, Lawyer Assistance Program

**SUBJECT:** Lawyer Assistance Program 2010 Annual Report – Statutory Report and Filing

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lawyer Assistance Program (“LAP”) of the State Bar of California presents the LAP 2010 Annual Report, pursuant to Senate Bill 479, due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Report is being printed. The Report will be distributed to you at the meeting. Board members with questions or concerns may contact Janis Thibault, 916-564-5184 or [janis.thibault@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:janis.thibault@calbar.ca.gov)

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## BACKGROUND

The LAP is premised on early identification of attorneys suffering from substance abuse or mental illness. The program assists the Bar to protect the public, the courts, and the legal profession by offering education and rehabilitative programs to State Bar members. The program also works in conjunction with the State Bar Court Alternative Discipline Program to offer an alternative to traditional disciplinary sanctions. Section 6238 of SB 479 directs the Oversight Committee of the LAP to report to the Board of Governors and to the Legislature not later than March 1, 2003, and annually thereafter, on the implementation and operation of the program.

## ISSUE

The LAP provided effective early intervention and made progress toward meeting the goals of the LAP Oversight Committee’s Long-Range Strategic Plan and the Member Services Departmental Plan during 2010. Specific initiatives during the year included: (1) at the direction of the Board of Governors, continuing to reduce program expenditures, (2) implementing a revised program structure that allows the program to serve an expanded pool of participants without increasing existing staffing levels, (3) further slowing the growth of outstanding loan

obligations, and (4) continuing to work with an outside agency to enhance the rate of repayment of funds previously loaned to participants in the program (pursuant to B&P Code §6235). Of note, the Program conducted 202 intakes with attorneys during 2010, fifteen percent more intakes than the previous year and the largest number since 2006.

**FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:**

None

**RULE AMENDMENTS:**

None

**BOARD BOOK IMPACT:**

There is no impact on the Board Book/Administrative Manual

**PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

Should the Board Committee on Member Oversight concur with the Lawyer Assistance Program 2010 Annual Report, it would be in order to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Committee on Member Oversight recommends that the Board of Governors receives the report and thanks staff for its submission of the Lawyer Assistance Program 2010 Annual Report, in the form attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

Should the Board concur with the recommendation of the Board Committee on Member Oversight, it would be appropriate to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Governors receives the report and thanks staff for its submission of the Lawyer Assistance Program 2010 Annual Report, in the form attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.