

Comprehensive Governance Reform Proposal
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Submitted By:

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A. Statutory Governance Changes -- Size and Composition of Board of Governors

- 23 Board Members (22 plus President)
 - 16 lawyer members:, 12 elected, 1 CYLA, 3 appointed
 - 6 public members (same appointing authorities)
- Adopt qualification criteria applicable to both public and lawyer members
 - Add new more specific conflict of interest rule to supplement existing general rule (e.g. specify recusal circumstances for pending discipline matters)
 - Add new criteria requiring high level of familiarity and interest in Bar's work
- Appointing authority for 3 new lawyer appointees -- Supreme Court, through Merit Screening Committee (MSC)
- Electoral districts for elected lawyer members -- reconfigure to 5, based roughly on DCA boundaries
- Terms
 - Elected -- Staggered 3 year terms, may not run for successive terms, but may be appointed to a successive term and may run again after at least a one-term hiatus
 - Appointed -- Staggered 3 year terms, eligible for reappointment
- Transition: 3-year phase-in to new electoral districts and new appointments, without requiring currently sitting members to resign or serve shortened terms
- Adopt heightened priority given to public protection in statutory mission per Hebert Proposal 2/8/2011
- Through the Stakeholders Committee and Board, make appropriate changes to the Board Book and recommend appropriate legislative recommendations to adopt substantially the notice provisions of Bagley Keene, while preserving some aspects of our separate procedural regime that are consistent with judicial branch rules and precedent and the public interest
- Re-name the Board of Governors to the "Board of Trustees, and re-name board members to "Trustees"

B. Internal Governance Changes to Be Adopted By Board Book Revision

- Changes designed to increased transparency and complement alignment with Bagley-Keene

Require public notice and agendizing of meetings of subcommittees, task forces and ad hoc working groups

Prohibit “super-closed” meetings upon the objection of any Board member

- Changes designed to address perception of lack of public influence over the Bar’s regulatory activities -- Require 50% public member representation on RAD and MOC
- Changes designed to improve external messaging about the work of the Bar

Create new Legislative Liaison Committee

Hold every January meeting of the board in Sacramento and have “State Bar” day in conjunction with that meeting

Create new Public Information and Outreach Committee

- Changes designed to improve year-to-year continuity

Create new 9-member ExComm to replace Board Ops, with annual merit-based appointments

Task the Planning Committee with continuously updating Strategic Plan and monitoring progress against same

Revise rules governing scope of the President’s duties to ensure that the President is at all times acting for and on the authority of the Board, not unilaterally on agenda or mission adopted by him or her for each year