

# Distribution & Recommendations

## California Supreme Court

with a renewed [request](#) for the Court to convene a Workgroup on Conservatorship Right to Counsel Standards

## California Legislature

with [requests](#) to pass AB 1194 (right to counsel) and AB 625 (caseload study) and to direct the Judicial Council to study options for shifting the funding of indigent legal defense services in probate conservatorships from counties to the state similar to dependency cases

## California Judicial Council

with a [request](#) to amend court rules to clarify that courts must provide accommodations to litigants with known cognitive disabilities that prevent meaningful participation in a case and that appointment of counsel may be a necessary accommodation for such litigants to ensure access to justice

## California State Bar

with a [request](#) to conduct a quality assurance audit of a sample of cases in three counties – one with public defender representation, one with contract public defender representation, and one with a court-appointed counsel program – to evaluate whether indigent legal defense services in probate conservatorship proceedings are being conducted in a manner consistent with the requirements of due process, rules of professional conduct, and disability nondiscrimination laws, and to report its findings to the Supreme Court

## State Public Defenders Association

with [requests](#): to adopt guidelines, consistent

with ABA and California State Bar indigent legal defense principles, for caseload limits for conservatorship defense attorneys; to develop performance guidelines for conservatorship indigent defense counsel consistent with the outline contained in this report

## California County Executives

with a [request](#) to convene a team consisting of the public defender, county counsel, and risk manager to develop performance standards, caseload limits, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that county-funded indigent legal defense services in probate conservatorship proceedings conform to constitutional and statutory requirements, state and federal non-discrimination mandates, and rules of professional conduct with the dual purpose of improving the quality of services for recipients of legal services and reducing the county's risk of liability for substandard services

## Civil Grand Juries

with a [request](#) that they review indigent legal defense programs operated by public defender departments and contract public defenders to determine whether there are caseload limits, performance standards, and quality assurance monitoring to ensure that recipients of such services receive effective assistance of counsel as required by federal and state law

## United States Department of Justice

with a [request](#) to take action on pending complaints regarding ADA non-compliant legal services in probate conservatorship proceedings in Los Angeles County and to open a formal statewide investigation into deficient legal services being provided to litigants with serious cognitive and communication disabilities in such cases