

ACOMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: October 2014 – O-300

DATE: October 14, 2014

TO: Subcommittee on Operations and Management

FROM: Greg Shin, Director, Operations and Management

SUBJECT: **JULY 2014 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION COSTS**

BACKGROUND

Please see below a cost analysis of the July 2014 California Bar Examination (CBX). Attached is more detail with regard to the various expenses associated with administering the examination. Tracking this information over time should reveal trends for the major expense categories that should allow for proactive management and control of expenses.

DISCUSSION

The total cost for administering the July 2014 CBX was \$2,180,968.16 for 8,923 applicants, which is approximately \$137,000 higher than what was spent to administer the July 2013 CBX.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. The higher total expense compared to 2013 was driven largely by the 41 additional TA applicants that tested in 2014 as well as the additional facility we had to utilize in Sacramento due to the Convention Center not being available because of scheduling conflicts.
2. Approximately 88% of the facility capacity was used to administer this examination.
3. Costs for facility rental, electrical and proctors make up roughly 85% of the total costs.
4. While the 402 applicants who took the examination at the Testing Accommodations test centers made up only 4.5% of the total number of applicants, the cost to administer the examination to those applicants was approximately 45% of the total cost.

5. It costs approximately \$139 to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination at a general test center compared to approximately \$2,429 for each applicant taking the examination at a Testing Accommodations test center.

Administering examinations at Testing Accommodations test centers involve higher costs because of the type of facility that must be used, i.e., hotel instead of a conference center to be able to provide semi-private/private rooms, additional proctors, specialized equipment/software, etc. If more applicants with disabilities are granted accommodations in the future, overall costs will trend higher. It's also important to note that these figures don't include 'soft' costs for staff time and actual costs for medical experts/consultants to review testing accommodations petitions. Both of which will also increase if volumes increase.

Finally, this is all independent of the continued projected declines in the number of applicants taking the CBX as a result of the enrollment declines at law schools. Between the July 2013 and the July 2014 administrations of the CBX, there has already been a 7% decline in the number of first-time applicants (excluding attorney applicants) that have taken the examination.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received and filed.

PROPOSED MOTION

If the Subcommittee agrees, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the report on costs for administering the July 2014 California Bar Examination be received and filed.