

# **ACOMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM:** December 2014 – O-303

**DATE:** December 5, 2014

**TO:** Subcommittee on Operations and Management

**FROM:** Greg Shin, Director, Operations and Management

**SUBJECT:** **OCTOBER 2014 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION  
COST ANALYSIS**

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## **BACKGROUND**

Please see below a cost analysis of the October 2014 First-Year Law Students' Examination (FYLSX). Attached is more detail with regard to the various expenses associated with administering the examination.

## **DISCUSSION**

The total cost for administering the October 2014 FYLSX was \$159,424.73 for 430 applicants.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. Approximately 42% of the facility capacity was used to administer this examination.
2. Costs for facility rental, electrical and proctors make up roughly 74% of the total costs.
3. While the 22 applicants who took the examination at the Testing Accommodations test centers made up only 5.1% of the total number of applicants, the cost to administer the examination to those applicants was approximately 44% of the total cost.
4. It costs approximately \$206 to administer the FYLSX to an applicant taking the examination at a general test center compared to approximately \$3,194 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 FYLSX as a result of the enrollment declines at law schools. Between the October 2013 and the October 2014 administrations of the FYLSX, there has already been a 13% decline in the number of 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 October 2014 First-Year Law Students' Examination be received and filed.