

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: April 2015 - O-404

DATE: April 20, 2015

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions

SUBJECT: **Consensus of Issues Related to Rule and Law Changes Affecting Unaccredited and Accredited Law Schools**

Following a period of public comment and consideration of the comments received, the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) approved in principle, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees, amendments to the: 1) California Rules of Court – Chapter 3. Legal Education, Rule 9.30. Law School Study in Schools Accredited or Registered by the Committee of Bar Examiners, 2) Business and Professions Code Sections 6046.7 and 6060.7, 3) Article 4 Admission to the Practice of Law, Section 6060, Qualifications, Examination and Fees, 4) Title 4. Admissions and Educational Standards, Division 2. Accredited Law School Rules and 5) Title 4. Admissions and Educational Standards, Division 3. Registered Law School Rules. Among other changed requirements, the proposed amendments require that unaccredited law schools (renamed “registered law schools”) become accredited within a set period of time and provide the opportunity for online (distance learning) law schools to become accredited. The proposed amendments were circulated for public comment and after consideration of the comments received, the Committee approved the proposed amendments with one minor change, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees (Board).

During its March 2015 meeting, the Board approved the recommendations from the Committee and staff is in the process of preparing documents necessary to proceed with review of the proposed amendments by other parties. In developing the materials, it has been determined that it would be helpful to have the Committee’s input on several issues – keeping in mind that perspectives may change depending on the outcome of the proposals that have been approved in principle.

Staff will bring several questions to the Subcommittee for discussion during its April meeting and that while no actions will be taken, there may be general consensus with regard to appropriate answers to those questions.