

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: October 2015 – O-201

2014 – 2015 Goals and Accomplishments Examinations Subcommittee *Updated 09/2015*

1. In conjunction with Subcommittee on Operations and Management, review reports on administration of the California First-Year Law Students' Examination.

Reports were reviewed as scheduled.

2. Edit and approve final versions of the essay questions and select performance test questions for administration on California Bar Examinations.

Questions were reviewed and approved as scheduled.

3. Provide training from psychometrician on examination scaling, validity, reliability and fairness.

During its December 2014 meeting, the Committee met with its psychometric consultant, Dr. Roger Bolus, to discuss grading of the California Bar Examination.

4. Consider draft reports to the Supreme Court of California on February and July California Bar Examinations, which include analyses by psychometrician.

Reports on the examinations were reviewed; both were approved.

5. Review bar examination process, including scope, format, grading and UBE, to determine whether changes to current process should be explored.

Ongoing

6. In conjunction with the Subcommittee on Operations and Management, review reports on administration of the California Bar Examination.

Reports were reviewed as scheduled.

7. Consider Whether Two-Day Examination Proposal Should be Forwarded to Board of Trustees.

The subject of the Two-Day Examination was discussed by the Committee during several of its meetings in 2014-2015: at its January 2015 meeting and planning session, wherein the format/content of the California Bar Examination was discussed; at its March 2015 meeting, wherein the Committee affirmed its prior decision to reduce the California Bar Examination from three days to two days; at its June 2015 meeting, wherein the Committee made the decision to implement the Two-Day Examination beginning with the administration of the July 2017 California Bar Examination and to forward the proposal to modify the California Bar Examination to the Board of Trustees for its approval; and at its August 2015 meeting, wherein the Committee received a report that the Board of Trustees had approved the Two-Day Examination at its July 2015 Board Meeting, subject to consultation with the California Supreme Court, and directed staff to post on the State Bar's website a Notice regarding the Modification to Format and Grading of the California Bar Examination Effective with July 2017 Administration.

8. Determine Whether Changes to California Bar Examination Scope Should be Considered.

During its January 2015 meeting and planning session, the Committee discussed the format/content of the Bar Examination in California, which included the possibility of making a change to the scope of the examination. This item was put on the Committee's agenda for the March 2015 meeting as a result. After discussion at its March 2015 meeting as well as at its June 2015 meeting, the Committee took no action with respect to the scope of the California Bar Examination.

9. Provide training on testing accommodations process, including presentation(s) by expert consultants.

During its April 2015 meeting, the Committee received a presentation by Dr. Michael Shore on "Processing of Testing Accommodations Petitions."

10. Consider Proposed Guidelines for Generation of Examination Statistics and Statistics Provided to Law Schools.

No action taken during this Committee year.

11. Consider making decision regarding format of the California First-Year Law Students' Examination, including whether it should be all multiple-choice.

No action taken during this Committee year.

12. Continue outreach and consider making final decision regarding format of the California Bar Examination, including whether it should be reduced from three days to two days.

See Item #7.

13. Consider conducting future psychometric studies to ensure the reliability, validity and fairness of examinations administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners.

Ongoing

14. Receive reports on progress of Uniform Bar Examination.

Ongoing

15. Consider petitions seeking waivers of the Committee's examinations related policies, procedures and rules.

Monthly

16. Review appeals from applicants with disabilities who are appealing Senior Director, Admissions, decisions relative to their requests for testing accommodations.

Monthly