

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: October 2015 – O-500

2014-2015 Goals and Accomplishments Moral Character Subcommittee *Updated 9/2015*

1. Provide training regarding assessing the candor of applicants for moral character determination.

During its October 2014 meeting, the Committee received a presentation by Dr. Jack Schafer on the assessment of candor as it may relate in talking with Moral Character Determination applicants during Informal Conferences.

2. Provide training regarding conducting informal conferences and the decision making process.

During its January 2015 planning meeting, the Committee received a presentation on “Consideration of Moral Character Determination Applications and Moral Character Determination Application Review Procedures”, which included the participation of former Chair and member Patrick Dixon.

3. Consider revisions to application questions to improve the quality of the information provided.

No actions taken.

4. Consider proposed amendments to the *Admissions Rules* regarding the processing of Moral Character Determination applications and, if adopted in principle, review public comment and consider final version of the amended rules.

See item #6.

5. Meet with the Chief Trial Counsel Representative concerning the appeals of moral character application denials.

During its June 2015 meeting, the Committee met with Joseph Carlucci, Deputy Chief Trial Counsel, regarding the work of the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel and the status of pending Moral Character cases and appeals.

6. Consider Proposed Amendments to Rule 4.47 Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 4 of The Rules of The State Bar of California (*Admissions Rules*) Regarding Timing and Service of an Adverse Moral Character Determination and Rule 4.49 of the *Admissions Rules* That Would Change the Timing for Reapplication After a Final Adverse Moral Character Determination After Return from Public Comment.

Proposed amendments were adopted in principle, circulated for public comment and final versions of amendments were adopted by the Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

7. Provide training regarding the rehabilitation of applicants seeking a moral character determination.

Deferred.

8. Meet with State Bar Court Review Department Presiding Judge re moral character determination appeals.

Deferred.

9. Continue communications with the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel regarding moral character cases that have been appealed to the State Bar Court.

As part of the regular meeting agenda materials, the Committee received regular updates on the status of pending moral character determination applications pending in the State Bar Court and received updates in person from representatives from the Office of Chief Trial Counsel on a few of the pending actions.

10. Conduct informal conferences and make recommendations with respect to Applications for Determination of Moral Character.

Members of the Subcommittee participated in monthly informal conference sessions and made recommendations to the full Committee in connection with its regular scheduled meetings.