

# COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM:** October 2015 – O-301

**DATE:** October 7, 2015

**TO:** Subcommittee on Operations and Management

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

**SUBJECT:** **JULY 2015 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION COST ANALYSIS**

---

## BACKGROUND

Please see below a cost analysis of the July 2015 California Bar Examination (CBX). Attached is more detail with regard to the various expenses associated with administering the examination.

## DISCUSSION

The total cost for administering the July 2015 CBX was \$2,190,958.81 for 8,736 applicants, which is approximately \$10,000 higher than what was spent to administer the July 2014 CBX.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. Approximately 80% of the facility capacity was used to administer this examination compared to 88% in 2014. The lower utilization was largely due to fewer than anticipated testers at Santa Clara Convention Center and Ontario Convention Center (writers).
2. In line with historical data, costs for facility rental, electrical and proctors made up roughly 83% of the total costs (85% in 2014).
3. While the 369 applicants who took the examination at the Testing Accommodations test centers made up only 4.3% 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 \$143 to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination at a general test center compared to approximately \$2,629 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 2014 and the July 2015 administrations of the CBX, there was a 6% decline in the number of first-time testers (excluding attorney applicants) that took the examination. This is in addition to the approximate 7% decline in the number of testers between July 2013 and Jul 2014.

## **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 2015 California Bar Examination be received and filed.