

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

**AGENDA ITEM:** January 2016 – O-301

**DATE:** January 15, 2016

**TO:** Subcommittee on Operations and Management

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

**SUBJECT:** **OCTOBER 2015 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION  
COST ANALYSIS**

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## **BACKGROUND**

Please see below a cost analysis of the October 2015 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 2015 FYLSX was \$138,379.51 for 441 applicants.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. Approximately 65% of the facility capacity was used to administer this examination compared to 42% during the October 2014 examination.
2. Costs for facility rental, electrical and proctors make up roughly 74% of the total costs, which is identical to the prior year's examination.
3. While the 24 applicants who took the examination at the Testing Accommodations test centers made up only 5.5% 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 \$186 to administer the FYLSX to an applicant taking the examination at a general test center compared to approximately \$2,517 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 costs for staff time and actual costs for specialized consultants to review certain testing accommodations petitions. Both of which will also increase if volumes increase.

Staff continues to work on finding more cost effective testing locations to bring the overall cost of testing administration down from prior levels. It should be noted, however, that contrary to the current 'industry' trend of flat to declining number of applicants, the number of testers taking the October 2015 FYLSX increased to 441 from 430 in October 2014 (a small 2.6% increase, albeit an increase).

## **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 2015 First-Year Law Students' Examination be received and filed.