

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

**AGENDA ITEM:** June 2016 – O-302

**DATE:** June 15, 2016

**TO:** Subcommittee on Operations and Management

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

**SUBJECT:** **FEBRUARY 2016 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION COST ANALYSIS**

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## **BACKGROUND**

As part of the on-going process to monitor the costs related to administering the California Bar Examination (CBX), please see below for a cost analysis of the February 2016 CBX. Attached is more detail with regard to the various expenses associated with administering the examination.

## **DISCUSSION**

The cost for administering the February 2016 CBX was \$1,698,237 for 5,208 applicants. In 2015, the figures were \$1,593,600 and 5,230 respectively. The increase in costs from 2015 to 2016 can be largely attributed to the use of the Town & Country facility in San Diego, which was materially higher in cost compared to the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The decision to utilize Town & Country was related to a contract dispute with the facility dating back to 2012 which resulted in a settlement that required the State Bar to book the facility for a future examination administration (February 2016). In addition, the number of testers at Testing Accommodations test centers also increased year over year.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. Approximately 75% of the facility capacity was used to administer the CBX. This is a decline from the February 2015 administration where 84% of the facility capacity was utilized.
2. In line with historical data, 84% of our total costs were made up costs related to facility rental, electrical, and proctors.
3. It costs approximately \$165 (\$164 in February 2015) to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination at a standard test center compared to approximately \$2,722 (\$2,842 in February 2015) for each applicant taking the examination at a Testing Accommodations test center.

4. There were 321 applicants that took the CBX at a Testing Accommodations test center compared to 288 in 2015, which represents a 12% increase.

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 in order to be able to provide semi-private/private rooms, additional proctor requirements, specialized equipment/software, etc. If more applicants with disabilities are granted accommodations in the future, overall costs will start to 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 the number of applicants with disabilities are granted accommodations continues to grow.

### **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 February 2016 California Bar Examination be received and filed.