

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: August 2016 – O-500

2015-2016 Goals and Accomplishments Moral Character Subcommittee *Updated 08/2016*

1. Provided training regarding conducting informal conferences and the decision making process.

Vice-Chair Alan Yochelson provided training at the December 2015 Committee Meeting.

2. Meet with Lawyers Assistance Program Representative to Discuss the Program.

Lawyers Assistance Program Director Richard Carlton made a presentation to the Committee regarding the program at the April 2016 meeting.

3. Review Moral Character Determination process and guidelines and consider whether changes should be implemented to make it more efficient, including reducing the amount of paperwork distributed to Committee members.

The Committee adopted modifications to the procedures so that applicants are now scheduled for informal conferences before coming to the Committee for a decision. Additionally, to reduce the amount of paperwork distributed to Committee members, several members asked for and have been receiving their materials on thumb drives.

4. Discuss the use of the Lawyers Assistance Program as a Condition of Abeyance.

The Committee discussed the use and purpose of the Lawyers Assistance Program as a Condition of Abeyance, as well as the need for an amendment to the statute to include applicants. The Committee recommended that the statute be amended to include applicants for admission; a statute modification is being proposed through the Fee Bill.

5. Receive presentation on Ethics School and Client Trust Accounting School.

Representatives of the Office of Trial Counsel provided presentations on Ethics School and Client Trust Accounting School during the Committee's April 2016 meeting.

6. Consider Proposed Amendments to Admissions Rules re processing of applications.

Proposed amendments to Chapter 4 of the Admissions Rules were adopted in principle by the Committee and the Board Committee on Admissions and Education authorized their circulation for public comment. The amendments are currently circulating for public comment and will return to the Committee for consideration during its October 2016 meeting.

7. Meet with the Chief Trial Counsel for discussion of the lessons learned from attorney discipline and status report on the appeals of moral character application denials.

A representative from the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel met with the Committee during its June 2016 meeting.

8. Meet with State Bar Court Representative to Discuss State Bar Court Appeal Procedures.

A mutually convenient date for this meeting has not yet been determined.

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

This training did not take place due to various factors.

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

Monthly