

ACOMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: October 2016 – O-301

DATE: October 3, 2016

TO: Subcommittee on Operations and Management

FROM: Greg Shin, Director, Operations and Management

SUBJECT: **JUNE 2016 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION
COST ANALYSIS**

BACKGROUND

Please see below a cost analysis of the June 2016 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 June 2016 FYLSX was \$169,810.81 for 487 applicants. This compares to \$150,640.71 for 541 applicants for the June 2015 FYLSX. The year-over-year cost increase was largely due to the lower cost of using the State Bar office for TA testing and the South San Francisco Conference Center for non-TA testing in June 2015. The Oakland Convention Center and Oakland Marriott used for testing in July 2016 are materially higher in cost. Finally, in line with the current 'industry' trend of flat to declining number of applicants, the number of testers taking the June 2016 FYLSX decreased by 10% from June 2015.

Here are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. Approximately 72% of the facility capacity was used to administer this examination compared to 65% during the June 2015 examination.
2. Costs for facility rental, electrical and proctors made up roughly 73% of the total costs, which is almost identical to the 74% from the prior year's examination.
3. While the 27 applicants that took the examination at the Testing Accommodations test centers made up only 6% of the total number of applicants, the cost to administer the examination to those applicants was approximately 43% of the total cost.

4. It costs approximately \$195 to administer the FYLSX to an applicant taking the examination at a general test center compared to approximately \$2,707 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.

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 June 2016 First-Year Law Students' Examination be received and filed.