

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: December 2016 – O-408

DATE: November 28, 2016

TO: Subcommittee on Educational Standards

FROM: Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions

SUBJECT: Report on Board of Trustees' Action Re Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform Recommendations re Experiential Training Requirement

BACKGROUND

During the Board of Trustees' (Board) November 2016 meeting, it took the following action:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees continues to support and encourage competency training during law school and that such training be incorporated into a standard law school education curriculum, but that a competency training admission requirement not be pursued at this time;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recommends that the Committee of Bar Examiners consider adopting rules requiring a minimum of 6 units of competency training as part of the curricula of the law schools it regulates, which rules will be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform proposal regarding mandated competency training admission requirements be referred to the Committee of Bar Examiners for further consideration, and the committee report back to the Board of Trustees on this matter during the Board's July 2017 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Whether there should be competency training or "lawyering skills" courses required for admission to practice law in California has long been a subject of discussion by the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee). In fact, it took action in the 1980's recommending that such a requirement should be established. Several years ago, the Board established two Task Forces on Admissions Regulation Reform (TFARR) to study the issue and make specific recommendations, which they did. Since then TFARR's recommendation have been pending before the Board for various and assorted reasons.

This matter will come before the Committee in several months with more history, information and recommendations for consideration so that it may report back to the Board in July.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Report on the Board of Trustees' Action Re Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform Recommendations re Experiential Training Requirement be received and filed.

PROPOSED MOTION

If the Committee agrees with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move, that the Report on the Board of Trustees' Action Re Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform Recommendations re Experiential Training Requirement be received and filed.