

AGENDA ITEM

FEB 113 Pre Admission Practical Skills Requirement Task Force

DATE: January 24, 2012

TO: Members, Board Committee on Operations
Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Cathy Torney, Committee Coordinator

SUBJECT: Pre Admission Practical Skills Requirement Task Force

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) or Board Committee on Operations may appoint ad hoc or special committees to handle special assignments, any such committee to automatically cease to exist upon completion of its assignment. Board of Trustees’ Policy Manual (“Board Book”) at Tab 9, Article 1, Section 3 (b) (1) (2) (3). Pursuant to the Board’s direction at the recent planning session, the President seeks authorization to create a Special Task Force to explore adding a pre admission practical skills requirement for admission to the Bar.

BACKGROUND

At the January 2012 Board Planning Session, the Board directed that the Bar explore adding a Pre-Admission Practical Skills Requirement (Supervised Professional Education [SPE]) to the requirements for admission to the Bar. The Board requested as the initial step, the appointment of a Special Task Force composed of representatives from the Board, Committee of Bar Examiners, Supreme Court, Legislative staff, law schools, CYLA and law students, to be staffed out of the Office of Admissions. Pursuant to Board policy, the President may appoint an ad hoc or special committee, with approval of the Board. Board Book at Tab 9, Article 1, Section 3 (b) (1).

ISSUE

The authorization of any Ad Hoc Committee must be based upon a written charge setting forth the tasks to be carried out, and must not include any task that is expressly delegated by the Board Book to any standing committee or to the Board as a whole. Board Book at Tab 9, Article 1, Section 3 (b) (2). The proposed charge of this Special Task Force is as follows.

CHARGE OF TASK FORCE

Explore the advisability of adding a pre-admission practical skills requirement to the requirements for the admission to practice law in California. This exploration will include: a study whether to add the pre-admission practical skills requirement; creation of a time line for the study; recommendation if the requirement should be added and if so, what form it should take; preparation and presentation to the Committee of Bar Examiners, the Board Committee on Regulation, Admissions and Discipline, and the Board; and creation of an Action Plan, including, if adopted, a schedule for public comment, legislation and rule approval.

The Board has not previously delegated this task to another standing committee or to the Board. The Special Task Force will report back to the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board. The Board will ultimately adopt any recommendation made by the Task Force.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

Per the direction of the Board, this Special Task Force is to be staffed from the Office of Admissions. Staff time and meeting costs will result in some fiscal impact, the amount of which is unknown at this time.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

If adopted, this proposal would result in amendments to State Bar Rules, Title 4, Division 1.

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

No Board Book impact is foreseen.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board Committee on Operations approve the creation of a Special Task Force on Pre Admission Practical Skills Requirement. If the Committee so authorizes, the President will thereafter make a report to the full Board of Trustees

PROPOSED BOARD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Should the Board Committee on Operations agree with the above recommendation, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, that the Board Committee on Operations authorizes the creation by the President, of a Pre Admission Practical Skills Requirement Task Force.