



The State Bar of California

Moral Character Planning Session

Goals, Objectives and Work Plan for 2020

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Moral Character Functions

- Oversee and administer policies related to moral character determinations
- Conduct administrative reviews, upon request, for applicants who receive a negative moral character determination from staff



Changes Implemented in 2019

- AIMS
 - Determination and extension applications now submitted online
 - Questionnaires now sent electronically through AIMS
 - Elimination of hard copy files for applications submitted in AIMS
- Procedural/Policy
 - Staff began conducting informal conferences
 - CBE transitioned to new role as the administrative review body
- Other
 - Decisional Law Library created
 - Moral Character Working Group initiated



Changes Anticipated in 2020

- Procedural/Policy
 - Final products (Statement and Guidelines, and Decisional Matrices) of the Moral Character Working Group to be reviewed and approved by the CBE and BOT
 - After approval, updated/new moral character materials to be implemented by staff
- AIMS
 - AIMS to automatically account for gaps in an applicant's residence history and activity – implemented January 9, 2020
 - Digital signature on the moral character applications in AIMS



Training Topics for 2020

- Present seminars/training to the CBE on issues pertinent to moral character determinations.
 - Implicit bias and moral character determinations
 - Introduction to the State Bar's Ethics School
 - Introduction to the State Bar's Client Trust Accounting School
 - Expanding Access to the Legal Profession for People with Criminal Records (suggested speaker Debbie Mukamal)
 - Other Suggestions?



Current Goals

- Present findings of the Moral Character Working Group review of the current standards for determination of moral character matters and any recommendations for change – **April 2020**
- CBE members to receive a presentation on the Unauthorized Practice of Law - **Completed**
- CBE members to receive a presentation on the dynamics of sexual assault and survivor response - **Completed**
- Receive additional trainings on topics relative to moral character determinations (e.g. Ethics School, Client Trust Accounting School) – **Ongoing**
- Conduct requested administrative reviews of adverse moral character determinations and make final determinations with respect to Applications for Determinations of Moral Character – **Ongoing**
- Other Suggestions?



Recommendation for Work Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE
Goal 5, Objective d: Improve transparency. Accountability, accessibility, and governance by increasing the availability of meeting materials and public access to meetings and records and reporting these efforts to stakeholders and the general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moral Character Working Group (MCWG) meeting agendas are posted at least 10 days in advance• MCWG meetings are webcasted and open to the public• MCWG meeting materials are remediated and posted to the State Bar’s website	January 2020 February 2020	Final Work Product to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CBE April 2020• BOT May 2020, if approved by CBE