



**THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS
OF
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**

2011 Annual Report

Committee of Bar Examiners/Office of Admissions Administration Activities

- In 2011, the names of 6,627 applicants were placed on motions to the Supreme Court of California certifying their eligibility for admission to practice law in California.
- Adjustments to the admissions fees were implemented January 1, 2011.
- Seven presentations on admission requirements were made by Office of Admissions staff to California Law School students.
- Presentations on rehabilitation and the Moral Character process, the Lawyer Assistance Program and Moral Character applicants referred to the program as an abeyance requirement, the Office of the State Bar's Chief Trial Counsel's role in Moral Character cases that are appealed to the State Bar Court, conducting Moral Character Informal Conferences and Moral Character Informal Conference Procedures, consideration of changing the format of the California Bar Examination from three days to two and the perspective of representatives from the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel on Moral Character Determinations and Rehabilitation were received by the Committee.
- Presentations from Council on Access and Fairness representatives Craig Holden, Chair, State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, and Teri Cannon, Vice-Chair, State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, and Patricia Lee, Managing Director, Diversity and Outreach were received by the Committee.
- The report entitled "How Well Does the First-Year Law Students' Examination Predict Success on the California General Bar Examination?" prepared by Stephen P. Klein, Ph. D. and Roger Bolus, Ph. D., dated February 28, 2011, was authorized for release by the Committee.
- The report entitled "Likelihood of Repeaters Passing the General Bar Examination as a Function of Their Initial Scores and Other Variables" prepared by Stephen P. Klein, Ph. D. and Roger Bolus, Ph. D., dated June 23, 2011, was authorized for release by the Committee.

- The report entitled “History of General Bar Examination Structure and Pass/Fail Rules” prepared by Stephen P. Klein, Ph. D., dated July 9, 2011, was authorized for release by the Committee .
- Administrative amendments to the *Admissions Rules* were adopted by the Committee and approved by the Board of Governors.
- The Committee determined that future Performance Tests will be developed to include only the 13 areas of law subjects approved by the Committee for testing.
- Four meetings of the Committee’s Advisory Committee on Accredited Law School Rules were held and recommendations concerning proposed amendments to the accreditation rules were prepared, approved and forwarded to the Committee for consideration.
- A meeting with the California-Accredited Law School Deans and the Committee was held.
- Upon his retirement from the State Bar of California, the exemplary 24 years of service of John R. Rodriguez, Director for Operations and Management, on behalf of the Committee and The State Bar of California was acknowledged.

Examinations Activities

- The California Bar Examination, which includes both the General Bar Examination and Attorneys’ Examination, was administered to 13,617 (4,765 in February and 8,852 in July) law students and attorneys admitted in other states and foreign jurisdictions, which were slightly more than the 13,478 that were tested in 2010. The total number of applications filed in 2011 for the examination was slightly higher than 2010, as law school graduates and attorneys filed 15,173 applications in 2011 compared to 15,035 in 2010. In February, 3,542 applicants (74.3%) and in July, 7,417 applicants (83.8%) took the examination at laptop computer test centers. Applicants using their laptop computers were required to download special security software installed prior to administration of the examination. In February, 319 petitions for testing accommodations submitted by applicants with disabilities were granted and 258 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers. In July, 461 petitions were granted and 384 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers.
- In February 2011, 42.4 percent of the applicants passed the California Bar Examination, a higher pass rate than in February 2010 when 37.6 percent passed. In July 2011, the overall pass rate was 53.9 percent, a slightly lower pass rate than in July 2010 when 54.3 percent passed.
- The First-Year Law Students’ Examination was administered to 1,370 law students (726 in June, 644 in October), which was less than the 1,423 applicants who took it in 2010. One thousand, six hundred and forty-one (1,641) law students filed

applications in 2011, compared to 1,740 who filed in 2010. Out of the total number of law students taking the examination, 28 law students with disabilities were granted accommodations and 20 applicants took the examination at testing accommodations test centers in June. In October, 31 applicants were granted accommodations and 26 took the examination at testing accommodations test centers.

- In June 2011, 18.7 percent of the law students passed, compared to 24.6 percent who passed in 2010. In October 2011, 19.1 percent passed, compared to 19.5 percent who passed in 2010.

Moral Character Determination Activities

- Eight thousand, three hundred and five (8,305) moral character determination and extension applications were received from applicants seeking admission to practice law in California in 2011. This number is slightly less than the number received in 2010, which were 8,329. Eight thousand and thirty (8,030) applicants received positive Moral Character Determinations. One hundred and thirty-eight (138) moral character determination applications were submitted by attorneys seeking to register under the Multi-Jurisdictional Practice rules, which is fewer than the 144 applications received in 2010.
- The number of investigation reports reviewed by the Committee decreased in 2011, as 257 reports were reviewed compared to the 296 reviewed in 2010. During 2011, 106 informal conferences were held with moral character determination applicants, compared to 126 that were held in 2010. The number of applicants receiving adverse moral character determinations increased, however, from 30 in 2010 to 35 in 2011.

Legal Education Regulation Activities

- Thirty-four (34) law school reports were considered by the Committee, which included reports on visitations to the law schools in connection with their continued registration or accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners, major change requests submitted by the law schools and proposed notices of noncompliance.
- Amendments to Guideline 8.3 of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* regarding the location and other logistics associated with California-accredited law school libraries were adopted by the Committee.