

Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform

I Phase I: April 2012 – December 2013

Mission Statement

Examine whether the State Bar should develop a regulatory requirement for a pre-admission practical skills training program, and if so, propose such a program to the Supreme Court.

Work Plan

- A. As a baseline for study, gather information about (1) any practical skills training requirements imposed as a condition of Bar admission in other states and in other countries (2) the availability of practical skills training in law schools.
- B. Explore the advisability and feasibility of adding a pre-admission practical skills requirement as a condition of Bar admission in California, taking into account, among all other things that the Task Force deems appropriate, at least the following:
 - 1) the amount of practical skills training that would be required and the maximum period of time that we anticipate applicants for admission would have to spend as trainees;
 - 2) the specific content of the practical skills training that we would require, how that training would improve the level of competence among new lawyers, and whether to require a uniform practical skills curriculum or to permit a variety of different types of skills training;
 - 3) the means of delivering practical skills training, of ensuring quality control over training providers, and of certifying completion of training;
 - 4) whether and on what basis to grant credit for practical skills training in law school;
 - 5) whether to offer full or partial exemptions from training, and, if so, the basis for those exemptions,
 - 6) whether a gradual phase-in plan for implementation should be adopted, including, for example, a pilot phase,
 - 7) whether some alternative to formal pre-admission practical training might be the best approach to improving the readiness of new lawyers to practice, such as a mandatory post-admission mentoring program;
 - 8) how a pre-admission training requirement, once fully implemented, would likely affect the cost and availability of legal services in

California, the amount annual dues that members of the Bar pay, the ability of law students to find employment and manage their student loan indebtedness, and the willingness of new lawyers to settle in and base their practices in California.

- 9) An evaluation of the costs versus the benefits of a pre-admission practical skills training requirement
 - 10) whether a pre-admission practical skills training requirement would further the State Bar's public protection mission, and, if so, how.
- C. Hold three public hearings at which (1) persons with special expertise are invited to address the advisability and feasibility of adding a pre-admission practical skills requirement as a condition of Bar admission in California, and (2) anyone interested in the topic of whether to impose a pre-admission practice requirement may present comment.
- D. Develop a detailed Work Plan for Phase II.
- E. By no later than December 31, 2013, deliver a Final Report that addresses all considerations listed above in items A), B) and D) in addition to any other considerations that the Task Force may deem relevant; that sets forth, if appropriate, any Proposal and Action Plan; and that provides specific timelines for presentation of the Proposal and Action Plan for adoption to the Committee of Bar Examiners, to the Board Committee on Regulation, Admissions and Discipline, to the Board of Trustees, and to the California Supreme Court.

II Phase II: January 2013 – September 2014

Mission Statement for Phase II

Examine the following two issues: (1) the adequacy of the State Bar's regulations governing disclosure by California accredited law schools of post-graduation employment data, and (2) whether admission to the State Bar of California ought to be limited to graduates of ABA or California accredited law schools.

<u>Proposed Composition of Task Force</u>	<u>Number of Representatives</u>
Chairperson	1
Academic representation	3
Members of the Board of Trustees (current or former)	5
Members of the Committee of Bar Examiners (current or former)	3
Members of the Judiciary	2
Corporate representation (General Counsel, admitted to practice in California)	2
Practicing Lawyers (in addition to any appointed from the above categories)	3
Public members (in addition to any appointed from the above categories)	2
Total:	21