



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

## **2012 Annual Report**

### **Committee of Bar Examiners/Office of Admissions Administration Activities**

- In 2012, the names of 6,846 applicants were placed on motions to the Supreme Court of California certifying their eligibility for admission to practice law in California, compared to 6,627 names that were on motions in 2011.
- Seven presentations on admission requirements were made by State Bar staff to California Law School students.
- Presentations on working with applicants with anger management issues and referral to the State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program, 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, and from the Presiding Judge of the State Bar Court were received by the Committee.
- The report entitled "Eventual Passing Rates on the California Bar Exam by School Type for Six Cohorts of First-Time Takers Beginning with February 2007 Takers" prepared by Stephen P. Klein, Ph. D. and Roger Bolus, Ph. D., dated November 26, 2012, was authorized for release by the Committee.
- Outreach on the Committee's consideration of a proposal to change the duration of the California Bar Examination from three days to two days, and the format changes that would be necessary to ensure the validity and reliability of the examination remained constant continued, and included a presentation on the proposal to the Board Committee on Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight.

### **Examinations Activities**

- The California Bar Examination, which includes both the General Bar Examination and Attorneys' Examination, was administered to 13,992 (4,820 in February and 9,172 in July) law students and attorneys admitted in other states and foreign jurisdictions, which were slightly more than the 13,617 who were tested in 2011. The total number of applications filed in 2012 for the examination was slightly higher than 2011, as law school graduates and attorneys filed 15,540 applications in 2012 compared to 15,173 in

2011. In February, 3,942 applicants (81.83%) and in July, 8,195 applicants (89.34%) 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, 307 petitions for testing accommodations submitted by applicants with disabilities were granted and 243 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers. In July, 422 petitions were granted and 365 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers.

- In February 2012, 42.5 percent of the applicants passed the California Bar Examination, which was about the same as in February 2011 when 42.4 percent passed. In July 2012, the overall pass rate was 54.4 percent, a slightly higher pass rate than in July 2011 when 53.9 percent passed.

- The First-Year Law Students' Examination was administered to 1,155 law students (607 in June, 548 in October), which was less than the 1,370 applicants who took it in 2011. One thousand, three hundred and sixty-one (1,361) law students filed applications in 2012, compared to 1,632 who filed in 2011. Out of the total number of law students taking the examination, 34 law students with disabilities were granted accommodations and 30 applicants took the examination at testing accommodations test centers in June. In October, 29 applicants were granted accommodations and 19 took the examination at testing accommodations test centers.

- In June 2012, 20.6 percent of the law students passed, compared to 18.7 percent who passed in 2011. In October 2012, 15.7 percent passed, compared to 19.1 percent who passed in 2011.

### **Moral Character Determination Activities**

- Eight thousand, one hundred and five (8,105) moral character determination and extension applications were received from applicants seeking admission to practice law in California in 2012. The number of applications is slightly less than the 8,256 received in 2011. Eight thousand and twenty (8,020) applicants received positive Moral Character Determinations. Two hundred and two (202) moral character determination applications were submitted by attorneys seeking to register under the Multi-Jurisdictional Practice rules, which is more than the 138 applications received in 2011.

- The number of investigation reports reviewed by the Committee increased in 2012, as 274 reports were reviewed compared to the 257 reviewed in 2011. During 2012, 107 informal conferences were held with moral character determination applicants, compared to 106 that were held in 2011. The number of applicants receiving adverse moral character determinations decreased from 35 in 2011 to 26 in 2012.

### **Legal Education Regulation Activities**

- Twenty (20) 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.

- Following a period of public comment and consideration of comments received, amendments to Guidelines 4.1(A) and 4.1(B) of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* regarding Requirements for Full-Time Administrator and Guideline 7.3(A) regarding Academic Support were adopted, effective August 1, 2012.
- A Public Forum, which was held to receive comments regarding the proposed new minimum cumulative bar passage standard and guidelines for California-accredited law schools circulating for public comment, was held by the Committee in August 2012.
- Following a period of public comment and consideration of comments received, amendments to Guideline 2.3(D) of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* regarding mandatory disclosure statements, were adopted, effective January 1, 2013.
- Two new unaccredited law schools were registered by the Committee and one school, M.D. Kirk School of Law withdrew its registration as an unaccredited law school.