

AGENDA ITEM

54-111 NOVEMBER 15 2013

DATE: November 14, 2013

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

FROM: Teri Greenman, Committee Coordinator

SUBJECT: Amendments to Oath Required Upon Admission to Practice Law - Request to Release for Public Comment – Report of Action Taken August 30, 2013, by the Board Committee on Operations on Behalf of the Board Between Meetings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report of action taken on August 30, 2013, by the Board Committee on Operations on behalf of the Board of Trustees between regular meetings of the board. The Committee directed staff to release for a 30-day public comment period, a proposed new Rule of Court (rule 9.4) which would append a courtesy and professionalism statement to the oath required to be taken by persons who are certified by the Supreme Court for admission to practice law.

DISCUSSION

At its July 18 – 19, 2013 meeting, the Board endorsed the concept of an amendment to the attorney oath that would add aspirational professionalism commitments. Following the July meeting, the State Bar worked with Judicial Branch staff to develop a proposal to circulate for public comment for a new Rule of Court that implements the courtesy and professionalism statement as a new sentence added to the attorney oath.

The August 30, 2013 agenda item requested that the Committee approve a recommendation that proposed new Rule of Court, rule 9.4 be circulated for a 30-day public comment period. At the meeting, the Board Committee considered the attached agenda item and resolution. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded and the Board Committee voted to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board Committee on Operations authorizes staff to make available for public comment for a period concluding on October 4, 2013, the proposed new Rule of Court, rule 9.4, Oath Required when Admitted to Practice Law in the form attached; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED that good cause exists to reduce the comment period to thirty (30) days; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this authorization for release for public comment is not, and shall not be construed as, a statement or recommendation of approval of the proposed item.

All members except Gwen Moore were present and all members present voted yes.

A copy of the agenda item materials and resolution is attached.