

AGENDA ITEM

III A. SEPTEMBER 29 2014

DATE: September 29, 2014

TO: Craig Holden, Chair
Members, Board Executive Committee

FROM: Jon B. Streeter, Chair, Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform

SUBJECT: Request for Release For Public Comment – Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform: Final Phase II Implementing Recommendations For a Competency Skills Training Requirement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2012, the Board of Trustees appointed the [Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform](#) (“Task Force” or “TFARR”). In Phase I, the Task Force held eight public hearings to examine whether the State Bar should develop a regulatory requirement for a pre-admission competency skills training program, and if so, propose such a program to the Supreme Court. The TFARR Final Phase I Report was adopted by the State Bar Board of Trustees on October 12, 2013 (**Attachment 1**).

[Phase II of TFARR’s work began in December 2013](#) (**Attachment 2**). A series of eight public hearings were focused on developing rules for the implementation of its Phase I recommendations. With some minor adjustments to the Phase I recommendations, and upon review of unofficial public comment received to date, TFARR submits to the Board Executive Committee its implementing recommendations with a request to release for official public comment:

- Pre-Admission: 15 Units of Practice-Based Experiential Training in Law School/Apprenticeship Option
- California’s Proposed Recommendation for 50 Hours Pro Bono/Reduced-Fee Legal Services
- Post-Admission: California's Proposed Recommendation for 10 Hours Competency Training MCLE

A detailed description of the activities of the Task Force along with the Task Force’s proposed amendments to the Business and Professions Code, California Rules of

Court, and State Bar Rules is provided in 3 Attachments to the *Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform Phase II Final Report* at **Attachment 3**.

ISSUE

Should the Board Executive Committee authorize a 35 day public comment period for the amendments proposed by the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform which appear as Attachments A – C of the Phase II Final Report?

CONCLUSION

Yes.

FISCAL / PERSONNEL IMPACT:

To be determined, but it has been estimated that the cost will be approximately \$464,000/year.

RULE AMENDMENTS:

See Attachments A – C of **Attachment 3**.

BOARD BOOK IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board Executive Committee authorize a 35 day public comment period for the amendments proposed by the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform which appear as Attachments A – C of the Phase II Final Report.

PROPOSED TASK FORCE RESOLUTIONS:

Should the Board Executive Committee agree with the above recommendation, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, that the Board Executive Committee authorizes staff to make available, for a public comment period of 35 days, the amendments proposed by the Task Force on Admissions Regulation Reform, which appear as Attachments A – C of the Phase II Final Report in the form attached; 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.

Attachments:

1. TFARR Final Phase I Report (June 24, 2013)
2. October 12, 2013 Board of Trustees Agenda Item - Authorize Creation of Implementation Committee (TFARR Phase II); Membership Roster; Working Group Assignments
3. TFARR Final Phase II Final Report (September 25, 2014)