



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

## **2014 Annual Report**

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

- In 2014, the names of 6,726 applicants were placed on motions to the Supreme Court of California certifying their eligibility for admission to practice law in California, compared to 7,008 names that were on motions in 2013.
- Nine (9) presentations on admission requirements were made by State Bar staff to California Law School students.
- Two (2) presentations on the validity, reliability, fairness, format and grading of the bar examination, one (1) presentation on the processing of testing accommodations petitions, two (2) presentations on moral character related matters and one (1) presentation from an outgoing member on the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) on the work that was accomplished by the Committee during his term as a public member appointed by the Governor were received by the Committee.
- Adjustments in the Admissions Fees were approved by the Board of Trustees for implementation beginning January 1, 2015, and another adjustment beginning in January 1, 2016.

### *Examinations Activities*

- The California Bar Examination, which includes both the General Bar Examination and Attorneys' Examination, was administered to 14,009 law students and attorneys admitted in other states and foreign jurisdictions (5088 in February and 8921 in July), which were slightly fewer than those who were tested in 2013, which was a total of 14,190. The total number of applications filed in 2014 for the examination was lower than 2013, as 15,658 law school graduates and attorneys filed applications in 2013 compared to 16,046 in 2013. In February, 4,118 applicants (80.92%) and in July, 8,162 applicants (91.47%) 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, 313 petitions for testing accommodations submitted by applicants with disabilities were granted and 258 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers. In July, 498 petitions were granted and 402 applicants were tested at testing accommodations test centers.

- In February 2014, 46.1 percent of the applicants passed the California Bar Examination, which was higher than in February 2013 when 41.9 percent passed. In July 2014, the overall pass rate was 47.8 percent, a lower pass rate than in July 2013, when 54.9 percent passed.

- The First-Year Law Students' Examination was administered to 936 law students (506 in June, 430 in October), which was less than the 1,120 applicants who took it in 2013. One thousand, seventy-eight (1,078) law students filed applications in 2014, compared to 1,291 who filed in 2013. Out of the total number of law students taking the examination, 34 law students with disabilities were granted accommodations and 28 applicants took the examination at testing accommodations test centers in June. In October, 27 applicants were granted accommodations and 22 took the examination at testing accommodations test centers.

- In June 2014, 23.1 percent of the law students passed, compared to 24.1 percent who passed in 2013. In October 2014, 25.3 percent passed, compared to 19.2 percent who passed in 2013.

- In 2014, the Committee of Bar Examiners considered 61 appeals filed by applicants with disabilities requesting testing accommodations or seeking modification of testing accommodations already granted, compared to 36 appeals filed in 2013.

#### *Moral Character Determination Activities*

- Eight thousand, two hundred and two (8,202) moral character determination and extension applications were received from applicants seeking admission to practice law in California in 2014. The number of applications is more than the 7,754 received in 2013. Six thousand, nine hundred and eleven (6,911) applicants received positive Moral Character Determinations. Two hundred and fifty-two (252) moral character determination applications were submitted by attorneys seeking to register under the Multi-Jurisdictional Practice rules, which is more than the 204 applications received in 2013.

- The number of investigation reports reviewed by the Committee increased in 2014, as 381 reports were reviewed compared to the 343 reviewed in 2013. During 2014, 159 informal conferences were held with moral character determination applicants, compared to 129 that were held in 2013. The number of applicants receiving adverse moral character determinations increased to 62 in 2014 compared to 47 in 2013.

#### *Law School Regulation Activities*

- Twenty-nine (29) 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 notices of noncompliance.

- The first reports from the California Accredited Law Schools on their compliance with the new Minimum Bar, Cumulative Bar Pass Rate accreditation standard, which is that the schools must maintain a cumulative bar pass rate of at least 40%, were received by the Committee.

**MARCH 2015 KEY INDICATORS**  
**OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS/COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

Applicants for Admission Placed on Motions to the Supreme Court:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 86	315	March: 125	394

Registrations Received:

Attorneys:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 302	539	March: 356	583

Law Students:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 891	2,241	March: 923	2,426

Applications Received:

General Bar Examination:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 5,352	5,792	March: 6,118	6,593

Attorneys' Examination:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 151	230	March: 188	287

First-Year Law Students' Examination:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 263	263	March: 325	325

Moral Character Determination:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 101	1,594	March: 72	2,051

Moral Character Determination Extension:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 21	70	March: 21	68

Multijurisdictional Practice (MJP) Moral Character Applications:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 19	66	March: 20	54

Practical Training of Law Students Program Applications:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 142	681	March: 135	674

Pro Hac Vice Applications:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 215	563	March: 234	665

Committee of Bar Examiners' Actions:

Petitions Considered by the Committee of Bar Examiners:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 4	9	March: 5	9

Moral Character Reports Considered by the Committee of Bar Examiners:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 55	100	March: 53	103

Testing Accommodations Appeals:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 7	17	March: 16	18

Law School Reports:

<b>2015 Monthly</b>	<b>2015 YTD</b>	<b>2014 Monthly</b>	<b>2014 YTD</b>
March: 5	10	March: 3	6