



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

2017 Annual Report

Committee of Bar Examiners/Office of Admissions Administration Activities

- In 2017, the names of 5,873 applicants were placed on motions to the Supreme Court of California certifying their eligibility for admission to practice law in California, compared to 5,414 names that were on motions in 2016.
- Eleven (11) presentations on admission requirements were made by State Bar staff to California Law School students.

Examinations Activities

- The California Bar Examination, which includes both the General Bar Examination and Attorneys' Examination, was administered to 14,076 law students and attorneys admitted in other states and foreign jurisdictions (4,893 in February and 9,183 in July), which is slightly higher than those who were tested in 2016, which was a total of 13,356. The total number of applications filed in 2017 for the examination was higher than 2016, as 16,997 law school graduates and attorneys filed applications in 2017 compared to 15,767 in 2016.
- In February 2017, 34.5 percent of the applicants passed the California Bar Examination, which is lower than in February 2016 when 35.7 percent passed. In July 2017, the overall pass rate was 49.6 percent, a higher pass rate than in July 2016, when 43.0 percent passed. The July 2017 Bar Exam was the first two-day exam administered in California.
- The First-Year Law Students' Examination was administered to 753 law students (400 in June, 353 in October), which was less than the 860 applicants who took it in 2016. Nine hundred and seven (907) law students filed applications in 2017, compared to 1,019 who filed in 2016.
- In 2017, 21.0 percent of the law students passed the First-Year Exam, compared to 16.8 percent who passed in 2016.
- In 2017, the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) considered 55 appeals filed by applicants with disabilities requesting testing accommodations or seeking modification of testing accommodations already granted, compared to 41 appeals filed in 2016.

Moral Character Determination Activities

- Seven thousand, five hundred and forty (7,540) moral character determination and extension applications were received from applicants seeking admission to practice law in California in 2017. The number of applications is more than the 7,406 received in 2016.
- The number of investigation reports reviewed by the Committee decreased in 2017, as 223 reports were reviewed compared to the 283 reviewed in 2016. During 2017, 175 informal conferences were held with moral character determination applicants, compared to 211 that were held in 2016. The number of applicants receiving adverse moral character determinations decreased to 39 in 2017 compared to 51 in 2016.

Law School Regulation Activities

- Ten (10) 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.