



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM AUGUST 2019 COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS ITEM O-501

DATE: August 23, 2019

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Tara Clark, Program Manager, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: 2018 - 2019 Moral Character Determination Goals and Accomplishments

1. Training regarding conducting informal conferences and the decision making process which also covers limits of permissible questions, areas of inquiry and options for abeyance.

October 2018

During the Committee's October 2018 meeting, the Committee received training by the Office of Chief Trial Counsel on conducting informal conferences with moral character determination applicants.

2. Update the Committee on the status of the implementation of the revised process for conducting informal conferences and present to the Committee proposed procedures regarding Committee review of adverse moral character determinations. Confer with the Subcommittee on Moral Character regarding procedures for transferring the responsibility for conducting informal conferences from the Committee to staff and implementing other Appendix I recommendations.

Ongoing

During the Committee's June 2019 meeting, the Committee reviewed the proposed procedures and provided input. The revised procedures will be received and filed at the August 2019 meeting.

3. Present findings of internal review of the current standards for determination of moral character matters and any recommendations for change.

Ongoing

The current review includes that of the Moral Character Working Group. The working group held its first meeting on June 7, 2019. The second meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2019.

4. CBE members to receive a presentation on the dynamics of sexual assault and survivor response.

December 2019

Because of time considerations, this training will be presented at the December 2019 Committee meeting.

5. CBE members to receive a presentation on implicit bias.

October 2019

6. Receive additional trainings on topics relative to moral character determinations (e.g. Ethics School, Client Trust Accounting School).

Ongoing

7. Conduct informal conferences and make recommendations with respect to Applications for Determinations of Moral Character.

Ongoing