

**State Bar of California
Office of Admissions
Moral Character Determinations Decisional Matrix**

RESPECT FOR AND OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY UNNECESSARY	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY NECESSARY	INFORMAL CONFERENCE MAY BE NEEDED	AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS
Municipal Violation				
Vehicle Code Infraction				
Juvenile Misdemeanor				
Adult Misdemeanor				
DUI/Reckless Driving Conviction	DUI or Reckless Driving Conviction – cooperative with police, BAC <.08, prior to law school matriculation	DUI Conviction – uncooperative with police, BAC >.08, minimal narrative	DUI Conviction – resisting arrest or battery upon an officer, BAC >.16, during or after law school, after positive MC determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing Great Bodily Injury • BAC > .16% within the last 5 years • Multiple convictions • Still on probation • FTA, FTP, or bench warrant • Moral Turpitude • Omitted on Moral Character application or law school application
Drug Possession Conviction – Non Narcotic				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conviction expunged or dismissed • BAC <.08 • Probation successfully completed • Age and length of time • Rehabilitative efforts • No or insignificant prior record
Felony Conviction				
Conviction of Drug Sales/Possession of Narcotic Substance				

This decisional matrix provides a framework to assist the State Bar in completing an analysis of key factors to consider when making a determination whether an applicant possesses the requisite moral character for admission to practice law in California. Each applicant is different and will be considered on his or her own merits. Accordingly, this decisional matrix does not limit the decision-makers' discretion in arriving at a moral character determination.

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HONESTY, CANDOR, TRUSTWORTHINESS, FAIRNESS	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY UNNECESSARY	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY NECESSARY	INFORMAL CONFERENCE MAY BE NEEDED	AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS
Job termination				
Honor Code violation – undergraduate/post- graduate				
Honor Code violation – law school				
Omission	Mistake/error	Minor omission	Material Omission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional omission/misrepresentation • Perpetuated the omission • Did not acknowledge wrongdoing • Later disclosed by applicant • Took responsibility for omission
Fraud				
Admission denial – practice of law				
Admission/license denial - other profession				

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OBSERVANCE OF FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY AND/OR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY UNNECESSARY	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY NECESSARY	INFORMAL CONFERENCE MAY BE NEEDED	AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS
Bankruptcy	No objections, discharged	Objections - dismissed	Findings of fraud, revocation of discharge, objections – sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omitted on Moral Character application • Recent (example the within the last 5 years) • Contempt of Court
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed Chapter 13 repayment plan • Circumstances beyond control • Currently financially responsible
Past due debt/debt in collections				
Unpaid/past due state or federal taxes				
Professional Complaint – Attorney				
Breach of fiduciary duty				

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RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS & THE JUDICIAL PROCESS	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY UNNECESSARY	ADDITIONAL INQUIRY NECESSARY	INFORMAL CONFERENCE MAY BE NEEDED	AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS
Civil Action				
Administrative Action				
Unsatisfied Judgment				
Conduct Code violation—undergraduate/post-grad.				
Conduct Code violation—law school				
Court Sanctions				
Professional Complaint—Other Profession				
Professional Complaint—Attorney				
Malpractice—Other Profession				
Malpractice—Attorney				
Professional Discipline—Other Profession				
Professional Discipline—Attorney	Informal resolution	Private reproof, reprimand, admonishment	Public reproof, reprimand, admonishment; suspension; disbarment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral Turpitude • Multiple issues/incidents • Omitted on Moral Character application • Recent (e.g., within the last 5 years) • Successfully completed requirements • Length of time since issue • Rehabilitative efforts • No or insignificant prior record
Unauthorized practice of law				

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