



# The State Bar *of California*

## **Examinations Planning Session**

### Goals, Objectives and Work Plan for 2020

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## Examinations Functions

- For the CBX, oversees format, scope, topics, content, and grading process; for the FYLSX – same, but also determines passing score. Also participates in question selection for the CBX
- Considers appeals re: incidents and petitions related to the examination, such as requests for reconsideration of examination results
- Has primary responsibility for reviewing psychometric & bar exam reports
- Considers appeals filed by applicants with disabilities requesting testing accommodations for taking examinations



## Changes Implemented in 2019 Exam Development

- Implement processes and procedures to better time access to examination information for those with need to know, including CBE members, until the latest feasible date
- Accordingly, CBX Question Assignment Memos sent prior to CBE Question Selection Meeting now contain more limited information



## Changes Implemented in 2019 Exam Grading

- Electronic answer files reviewed and scored online
- Enable secure electronic communications with graders, EDG team, and staff
- More efficient monitoring and tracking of grader performance through the exam cycle
- Decreased wait time for results & dissemination of essay answer files
- Staff/Graders/EDG team trained on new processes
- Internal protocols/checks and balances developed



## Changes Implemented in 2019 Testing Accommodations

- Online TA petition process in AIMS
- Enables electronic communications with applicants and third parties
- Electronic receipt/review of petitions and supporting documentation, efficient assignment of cases, speedier review, more efficient monitoring and tracking of applications
- Paper petitions greatly reduced



# Changes Anticipated in 2020

## Examination Development

- Addition of Apprentice EDG Team Members to assist in examination development tasks
- Development and delivery of enhanced training for new and existing EDG Team Members
- Identification and implementation of ways in which diversity and inclusion principles can be institutionalized in Bar exam development
- Development and implementation of a sampling plan into the consideration of question topics to be selected for each Bar exam
- Improvement of the State Bar's collaboration website to enhance electronic receipt/review of questions by the EDG Team and more efficient monitoring and tracking of question drafts



# Training Topics for 2020

## Examination Grading

- Development of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for Exam Reconsideration Requests (Test Center Incidents and Examination Results): Exploration of options, development of staff proposals and policy development
- Presentation on Scaling Methodology Used in Grading
- Presentation on the Phased Grading System for the California Bar Exam

## Testing Accommodations (TA)

- Presentation on Substantive Issues on Evaluating TA Petitions

## Examination Development

- Presentation from Examination Development and Grading (EDG) Team Member on Question Editing

Other Suggestions?



## Current Goals

- Evaluation of the Examination Development Process
  - Consider use of sampling plan in consideration of selection of bar exam topics
  - Consider CAPA study and impact on bar exam development
  - Consider additional studies to be done post-CAPA, e.g., new content validation study
  - Consider next steps with regard to conducting additional studies relative to content, format and passing score for the California Bar Examination
- Evaluation of the results of the 2-Day Bar Exam on pass rates, costs, etc.
- Evaluation of the Grading Process
  - Consider report on recommended best practices in examination administration and examination grading prepared by the California Department of Consumer Affairs
  - Conduct survey and assess other bar jurisdiction processes
  - Consider proposals on ways to reduce the time it takes to release results for the Bar Examination





## Recommendation for Work Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE
Goal 2, Objective m: After the results on the February 2019 Bar Exam are published, evaluate the results of the two-day exam on pass rates and costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider report prepared by the State Bar's Office of Finance on the financial and budgetary impacts of the transition to the modified (2-Day) California Bar Examination.</li></ul>	To be presented to CBE at April 2020 meeting	
Goal 2, Objective n: No later than December 2019, conduct a California specific job analysis to determine the knowledge, skills, and abilities for entry level attorneys. Upon completion, conduct a new content validation study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CAPA study to be finalized after NCBE has completed its job analysis (expected in February 2020)</li><li>CBE to review and consider final report prepared for the California Attorney Practice Analysis (CAPA)</li><li>Conduct new content validation study</li></ul>	<p>To be presented to CBE at April 2020 meeting</p> <p>To be presented to CBE at April 2020 meeting</p> <p>TBD</p>	