



# The State Bar *of California*

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**OPEN SESSION**  
**AGENDA ITEM O-202**  
**JUNE 2020**  
**COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

**DATE:** June 19, 2020

**TO:** Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

**FROM:** Lisa J. Cummins, Program Manager III, Examinations

**SUBJECT:** Action on Examinations Goals

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Below are the goals proposed for the Examinations Subcommittee for 2019-2020 and their current status.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Examinations goals for 2019 to 2020, as previously approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE), are listed below.

1. Edit and approve final versions of the essay questions and select performance test questions for administration on California Bar Examinations.

**December 2019 - Completed / Summer 2020**

2. Consider draft reports to the Supreme Court of California on February and July California Bar Examinations, which include analyses by psychometrician.

**December 2019 - Completed / June 2020**

3. In conjunction with Operations and Management, review reports on administration of the California First-Year Law Students' Examination.

**December 2019 - Completed / August 2020**

4. Consider next steps with regard to conducting additional studies relative to the content, format and scope of the California Bar Examination, including the California Job Analysis Study and other studies as mandated by the California Supreme Court.

**December 2019 - Completed / Ongoing**

5. Review report prepared by the Committee's psychometrician on the impact of the modified (2-Day) California Bar Examination, as requested by the Board of Trustees to be done after the new examination format has been administered for two years to determine whether there are any problems or disparities.

**December 2019 - Completed**

6. Consider report on recommended best practices in examination administration and examination grading prepared by the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

**April 2020 - Completed**

7. Review and consider proposals on ways to reduce the time it takes to release results for the California Bar Examination. Review and consider report prepared by the Committee's psychometrician, as part of the implementation of the Appendix I recommendation to evaluate the grading process for the California Bar Examination. If appropriate, consider and decide whether to implement any changes to the Committee's grading policies, processes, or procedures.

**April 2020 - Completed / Ongoing**

8. In conjunction with Operations and Management, review reports on the administration of the California Bar Examination.

**April 2020 - Completed / October 2020**

9. Receive final report prepared for the California Attorney Practice Analysis (CAPA).

**June - 2020**

10. Training from Subject Matter Expert on Substantive Issues Concerning Evaluating Testing Accommodations Petitions.

**June 2020**

11. Review and consider report on proposed sampling plan for selection of California Bar Examination question subjects, as part of the implementation of the Appendix I recommendation to develop such a plan. If appropriate, consider and decide whether to implement proposed sampling plan.

**June 2020**

12. In conjunction with Operations and Management, 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.

**August 2020**

13. Training from State Bar Staff on the Phased Grading System for the California Bar Examination.

**August 2020**

14. Continue to monitor the modified California Bar Examination in order to determine whether there are any problems or disparities.

**Ongoing**

15. Consider petitions seeking waivers of the Committee's examinations related policies, procedures and rules.

**Monthly, per Committee meeting schedule**

16. Review appeals from applicants with disabilities who are appealing Director for Admissions decisions relative to their requests for testing accommodations.

**Monthly, per Committee meeting schedule**

**FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

**AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR**

None

**AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL**

None

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Goal: None - Core business operations

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners approve the 2019 – 2020 Examinations goals set forth above.

## **PROPOSED MOTION**

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners agree with staff recommendations, the following motion should be made:

**MOVE**, that the 2019 – 2020 Examinations goals be approved.