



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM O-200 JANUARY 2021 COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: January 29, 2021

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

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

SUBJECT: Approval of 2020-2021 Examinations Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below are the Examinations Subcommittee's proposed 2020-2021 goals for the full Committee's approval.

BACKGROUND

The Examinations Subcommittee's proposed goals for the 2020-2021 Committee year are listed below.

1. 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.

December 2020

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

December 2020 / April 2021

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

January 2021 / April 2021

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

January 2021 / August 2021

5. Consider draft reports to the Supreme Court of California on October 2020 and February 2021 California Bar Examinations, which include analyses by psychometrician.

March 2021 / June 2021

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

June 2021

7. Training from Subject Matter Expert on the Principles of Scaling Written Test Scores on the California Bar Examination to the Multistate Bar Examination.

August 2021

8. Consider next steps with regard to conducting additional studies relative to the content, format and scope of the California Bar Examination, including any recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam and other studies as mandated by the California Supreme Court.

Ongoing

9. Review and consider proposals on ways to reduce the time it takes to release results for the California Bar Examination, including the implementation of any other changes discussed in the "Report on the Phased Grading of the California Bar Examination: A Profile of Recent Results and Modeling the Impact of Alternative Approaches," prepared by Roger Bolus, Ph.D. and dated April 9, 2020.

Ongoing

10. Work with the State Bar's Office of Access & Inclusion and the Council on Access and Fairness to develop processes and procedures in Examination Development and Examination Grading that advance the Mission of the State Bar to support efforts for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

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

Monthly, per Committee meeting schedule

13. 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 proposed 2020 – 2021 Examinations Subcommittee goals set forth above.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

MOVE, that the 2020 – 2021 Examinations Subcommittee goals be approved.