

Guiding Principles / Mission Statement

(Revised Following Input at the September 1, 2021 Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission)

In carrying out its charge to develop recommendations concerning whether and what changes to make to the California Bar Exam, and whether to adopt alternatives or additional testing tools to ensure minimum competence to practice law, the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam is guided by the following principles:

- Admission to the State Bar of California requires a demonstration of knowledge, skills, and abilities currently required for the entry-level practice of law, otherwise referred to as minimum competence.
- Admission to the State Bar of California requires minimum competence in professional ethics and professional responsibility.
- Criteria for admission to the State Bar of California should be designed to ensure protection of the public.
- The recommended examination, or examination alternative, should be evidence-based.
- Fairness and equity of the examination, or examination alternative, should be an important consideration in developing the recommended approach. Fairness and equity include but are not limited to cost and the mode and method of how the exam or exam alternative is delivered or made available.
- The recommended examination, or examination alternative, should minimize disparate performance impacts based on race, gender, ethnicity, or other immutable characteristics.

In adopting these guiding principles, the Blue Ribbon Commission does not intend to outline all characteristics which are important to set the foundation for the successful practice of law and the protection of the public. Nonetheless, the Blue Ribbon Commission is committed to promoting the highest standards of integrity, civility, and professionalism in the legal profession, and its members will also be guided by these more general objectives.