



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM O-301 JUNE 2022 COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: June 17, 2022

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Tammy Campbell, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of February 2022 California Bar Examination Cost Analysis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The information provided below summarizes the analysis of the costs associated with the February 2022 California Bar Examination.

BACKGROUND

As part of the on-going process to monitor the costs related to administering the California Bar Examination (CBX), a cost analysis of the February 2022 California Bar Examination has been prepared. Attached is additional detail regarding the various expenses associated with administering the examination.

DISCUSSION

After two years of the California Bar Examination held in an online remote format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the February 2022 California Bar Examination returned to being administered in the traditional in-person format at twelve test centers throughout Southern and Northern California.

The cost analysis has historically only focused on the overall cost to administer the examination in-person at the test centers. The data provided did not factor in other costs such as printed exam materials, MBE booklets, graders, laptop license fees or other indirect costs, including staff time spent preparing for the exam before, or time administering the exam and finalizing the exam

afterwards. The addition of the graders, exam materials and laptop license fees, along with the any ongoing COVID-19 prevention costs, has been included in the cost-analysis.

This report, along with previous exam administration financial reports, does not include costs for staff dedicated year-round to exam administration (the eligibility team, applicant services, testing accommodations and exam support), miscellaneous exam supplies sent to test centers, Testing Accommodation consultant fees, psychometric services, and staff overtime during and post exam administration.

The total cost for administering the February 2022 CBX was \$3,252,492 for 3,451 applicants. This compares to \$1,750,138 for 3,530 applicants for the February 2021 CBX. The change in the number of CBX applicants from February 2021 to February 2022 represents a 2.24 % decrease.

Below are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. The February 2022 examination costs increased year-over-year due to the change in modalities. With the return to an in-person exam, there were costs for the additional facilities, audio-visual, tables and chairs, electrical outlets, proctors, staff travel and printing costs beyond what was used during the online remote exam. However, there was the elimination of the Exam ID and Exam Monitor fees to proctor the test online.

Due to the ongoing presence of COVID-19, there were new costs associated with utilizing a vaccine/test result tracking application from Event Farm that allowed applicants to upload proof of vaccine or a negative COVID test result. Event Farm also provided staff at our four largest test centers to help clear applicants at the door and provide an expedited entrance into the exam. Costs associated with buying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the in-person test centers continued to be included in the additional costs.

February 2022 was also the start of using the vendor PSI to provide proctors for the examination. PSI provided 500 proctors across different test centers.

2. For the February 2022 examination, approximately 69% of the overall capacity for all test centers was used to administer the exam compared to 54% for the February 2021 examination (including online).
3. Historically, approximately 81% of our total costs are related to facility rental, electrical, and proctors. For this examination, approximately 68% of the direct costs were associated with the facilities, electrical and proctors. For the February 2021 exam, applicants did not require electrical outlets, fewer proctors were needed, and five fewer facilities were utilized due to COVID-19.
4. For the February 2022 examination, administering the Testing Accommodation test centers, which accounted for 8.2% of all applicants (285), resulted in approximately 40% of the total exam cost.

For the February 2021 in-person component of the exam, the 132 applicants that took the examination at test centers were a combination of applicants with testing accommodations and applicants with extenuating circumstances. These applicants made up for only 3.74% of the total number of applicants, and the cost to administer the examination to those applicants was approximately 46.39% of the total exam cost.

5. During the February 2021 examination, it cost approximately \$276 to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination online compared to approximately \$6,150 for each applicant taking the examination at an in-person test center.

In February 2022, it cost approximately \$613 to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination at a standard test center compared to approximately \$4,594 for each applicant taking the examination at a test center for accommodated applicants.

The overall cost per applicant in February 2021 was approximately \$495 compared to \$942 per applicant for the February 2022 examination.

Administering examinations at test centers for accommodated applicants normally involve higher costs because of the type of facility that must be used (i.e., hotel instead of a conference center) to provide semi-private/private rooms, additional proctor requirements, specialized equipment/software, etcetera.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee of Bar Examiners approve the February 2022 California Bar Examination Cost Analysis set forth above.

PROPOSED MOTION

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

MOVE, that the February 2022 California Bar Examination Cost Analysis be approved.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. February 2022 Cost-Analysis Breakdown