

## **TITLE 4. ADMISSIONS AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS**

Adopted July 2007

### **DIVISION 1. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA**

#### **Chapter 5. Examinations**

##### **Rule 4.55 First-Year Law Students' Examination requirement**

- (A) A general applicant intending to seek admission to practice law in California must take the First-Year Law Students' Examination unless the applicant
  - (1) has satisfactorily completed
    - (a) at least two years of college work as defined by these rules and the Committee's guidelines; and
    - (b) the first-year course of instruction
      - (i) at a law school that was approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee when the study was begun or completed; and
      - (ii) the law school has advanced the person, whether or not on probation, to the second-year of instruction; or
  - (2) is exempt by reason of study in a foreign law school as provided by these rules.
- (B) An applicant who passes the First-Year Law Students' Examination will receive credit for
  - (1) all law study completed upon passing the examination within three administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it; or
  - (2) the first year of law study only upon passing the examination after more than three administrations of the examination after first becoming eligible to take it.

*Rule 4.55 adopted effective September 1, 2008; amended effective July 22, 2011.*

##### **Rule 4.56 First-Year Law Students' Examination**

The First-Year Law Students' Examination is given each year in June and October at test centers in California designated by the State Bar. The State Bar develops the questions. Pursuant to the authority delegated to it by the Board of Trustees, the Committee determines the examination's format, scope, topics, content, grading process, and passing score.

*Rule 4.56 adopted effective September 1, 2008; previously amended effective July 22, 2011; amended effective September 1, 2019.*

#### **Rule 4.57 Exempt applicants taking First-Year Law Students' Examination**

An applicant who is exempt from the First-Year Law Students' Examination may apply for and take the examination. Failing the examination does not affect the applicant's status under these rules.

*Rule 4.57 adopted effective September 1, 2008.*

#### **Rule 4.58 Application for the First-Year Law Students' Examination**

- (A) An application to take the First-Year Law Students' Examination in June must be submitted by April 1. An application to take the examination in October must be submitted by August 1. Applications received after these deadlines and by May 15 or September 15 are subject to a late fee. Applications are not accepted after those dates. Application fees and late fees are set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. If a deadline falls on a non-business day, the deadline will be the next business day.
- (B) Different deadlines for initial filing and late fees apply to applicants who fail the First-Year Law Students' Examination and intend to take the next scheduled examination. These deadlines are set forth in the notice of examination results and are more than ten days from the date those results are released.
- (C) Applications that are unsigned or incomplete for any reason as of the final examination application filing deadline are deemed abandoned and ineligible for a refund of fees.
- (D) Applications for which eligibility documents have not been received by the date set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines are abandoned and ineligible for a refund of fees.

*Rule 4.58 adopted effective September 1, 2008; amended effective November 14, 2009.*

#### **Rule 4.59 Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination**

Every applicant must take and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and receive a passing score as determined by the Committee. The examination may be taken following completion of the first year of law study or later. The Committee must receive official notice of an MPRE passing score before an applicant is deemed to have passed the examination.

*Rule 4.59 adopted effective September 1, 2008; amended effective July 22, 2011.*

#### **Rule 4.60 California Bar Examination**

- (A) The California Bar Examination is given each year in February and July at test centers in

California designated by the State Bar. Pursuant to the authority delegated to it by the Board of Trustees, the Committee determines the examination's format, scope, topics, content, questions, and grading process.

- (B) The State Bar provides the California Supreme Court a report on each administration of the examination as soon as practical.

*Rule 4.60 adopted effective September 1, 2008; previously amended effective July 22, 2011; amended effective September 1, 2019.*

#### **Rule 4.61 Applications for the California Bar Examination**

- (A) Applications for the California Bar Examination are available March 1 for the July examination and October 1 for the February examination. To avoid imposition of a late fee, an application must be submitted no later than April 1 for the July examination or November 1 for the February examination. Applications received after these deadlines and by June 1 or January 1 are subject to late fees. Applications are not accepted after those dates. Application fees and late fees are set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. If a deadline falls on a non-business day, the deadline will be the next business day.
- (B) Different deadlines for initial filing and late fees apply to applicants who fail the California Bar Examination and intend to take the next scheduled examination. These deadlines are set forth in the notice of examination results and are a minimum of ten days from the date those results are released.
- (C) Applications are deemed abandoned and ineligible for a refund of fees if
  - (1) they are incomplete or unsigned by the final examination application filing deadline;
  - (2) the applicant has not provided additional information requested by the final eligibility deadline; or
  - (3) eligibility cannot be determined by the final eligibility deadline.

*Rule 4.61 adopted effective September 1, 2008; previously amended effective November 14, 2009; amended effective September 1, 2019.*

#### **Rule 4.62 Access to examination answers and scores**

- (A) Within sixty days of the release of examination results, examination answers to the written portions of the examination are returned to applicants for admission who have failed the California Bar Examination or who have passed or failed the First-Year Law Students' Examination. This provision does not apply to the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination or the multiple-choice portion of the First-Year Law Students' Examination and California Bar Examination.

- (B) Applicants who pass the California Bar Examination are not entitled to receive their examination answers or to see their scores.

*Rule 4.62 adopted effective September 1, 2008.*