



# Proposed Fee Increases to Support Admissions Services

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# How did we get here?



**Fees have not increased  
for at least 5 years**



**Escalating costs**

- Personnel, natural escalation
- Cost of exam administration
  - Exacerbated by COVID



**Declining numbers of applicants  
for admission programs**

- TA as % remains the same



**2023 budget= \$7M deficit  
in the Admissions Fund**

- Admissions Fund not solvent through 2024 absent fee increases
  - Cost reductions also needed

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR INCREASES

Both options include higher increases for applicants who are already licensed attorneys and also reflect ability to pay considerations within the attorney applicant population.

# Overview of fee proposals

1

- Option 1 = Full cost recovery



2

- Option 2 = Reduced deficit
  - Limits increases for those with lesser ability to pay to 10%
  - Moderate increases for others
    - Where full cost recovery increases are extreme and there are concerns about ability to pay



Other

- Some cases only one option presented
  - No concerns about ability to pay
  - Full cost recovery achieved
  - Benchmarked to other jurisdictions



# Proposed fee increases in three program areas

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Law Study & Exams



Attorney Special Admissions



Law School Regulation



# Public comment summary

Concerns about the financial burden of fee increases on law students, recent graduates, marginalized, and low-income groups.

Disagreement with passing the cost of the State Bar deficit onto prospective bar takers.

Concerns about the impact of fee increases on diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Calls for alternative measures to generate funds for the State Bar deficit.

Suggestions for major changes to the design and administration of the bar exam and moral character determination process to eliminate the need for high fees.

Concerns about lack of reciprocity with other states.

Calls for more information about the cost breakdown of the State Bar admissions services and function.

## Next steps

1

Staff working with Finance Committee to finalize recommendations to the Board for July meeting.

2

Staff to also present proposals for cost reductions to address any remaining gap.