



The State Bar *of California*

Bar Exam Cost Reduction Models

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Board of Trustees, August 10, 2023



Why the Need?

Current proposal for increases to admissions fees still result in expenditures exceeding projected revenue by **\$1,054,172**

Unless fees are further increased, cost reductions are required



Cost Reduction Model Considerations

Bar exam single
largest expenditure

Ripe for examination
of more efficient ways
to deliver

Consideration of
impact on applicants
with testing
accommodations

Results of surveys and
data related to
administration of
remote exams



Key Opportunities for Changes to Exam Administration Discussed



Consolidate administration into fewer sites



Options to remotely administer essays and performance test



Use of State Bar offices or similar facilities for testing accommodations applicants





Staff Recommendation – Revised Post July Meeting

For February 2024

In-person

7 sites

- 5 contracted
- State Bar office in Los Angeles
- Judicial Council space in SF
- Adds TA site in Sacramento for private rooms



How Did We Arrive at Locations Selected?



Availability of Venues with
Sufficient Seating Capacity

Ontario v. San Diego

San Francisco v. Sacramento



Cost



Examination of space needs
for applicants with v. without
testing accommodations



Bar Exam Locations

	"As Is" Feb 2024 Exam Locations	Proposed February 2024 Exam Locations (Revised Proposal)
Standard Exam Locations	San Francisco Bay Area: Oakland	San Francisco Bay Area: Daly City
	Sacramento	N/A
	Los Angeles: Pasadena	Los Angeles: Pasadena
	Ontario	Ontario
	San Diego	N/A
Testing Accommodation Exam Locations	San Francisco Bay Area: Burlingame	San Francisco Bay Area: Daly City & Downtown [Judicial Council]
	Sacramento	Sacramento
	Los Angeles: LAX	Los Angeles Downtown[State Bar] & Pasadena
	Orange	Orange
	N/A	Ontario
	San Diego	N/A



Cost Savings

	Feb 2024 Estimate: “As Is” Model	Feb 2024 Estimate: Staff Proposal 5 Contracted Sites, 1 SB Office, Jud Council
Proctor Costs	\$816,000	\$816,000
Staff Travel (meals, mileage, flights only)	\$9,000	\$9,000
Exam Soft License	\$179,000	\$179,000
Facilities + Facility-related Expenses	\$1,237,150	\$595,000
Other Expenses	\$153,000	\$150,000
MBE Books & Scoring	\$256,600	\$256,600
Total Cost	\$2,650,600	\$2,005,600
Savings	N/A	\$645,000

Themes from Public Comment

1. Significant financial burden
2. Additional stress, anxiety, and chaos
3. Disproportionate burden on people of color, with disabilities, and/or lower socioeconomic status
4. Impact on those with childcare or adult care obligations
5. Disparate impact on those from other than LA or SF
6. Disadvantages San Diego – large city, 3 law schools



Action and Next Steps

- Board is asked today to approve staff recommended sites for February 2024.
- Staff will come back with a proposal for July likely to include remote option to fully address structural deficit.

