



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM III.A AUGUST 2023 COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: August 18, 2023

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Tammy Campbell, Program Manager, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: February 2023 California Bar Examination Cost Analysis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The information provided below summarizes the analysis of the costs associated with the February 2023 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 2023 California Bar Examination has been prepared. Attached is additional detail regarding the various expenses associated with administering the examination.

DISCUSSION

The February 2023 California Bar Examination was administered in the traditional in-person format at ten test centers throughout Southern and Northern California.

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 2023 CBX was \$2,802,507 for 4,125 applicants. This compares to \$3,252,492 for 3,451 applicants for the February 2022 CBX. The change in the number of CBX applicants from February 2022 to February 2023 represents a 19.53% increase.

Below are a few highlights from the cost analysis:

1. The February 2023 examination costs decreased in comparison to the February 2022 CBX. With the return to an in-person exam during the February 2022, and the ongoing presence of COVID-19, there were costs associated with utilizing a vaccine/test result tracking application provided by 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. All staff were dispatched to test centers to work as door monitors. Costs associated with buying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the in-person test centers continued to be included in the additional costs in 2022.

February 2022 was the start of using the vendor PSI to provide proctors for the examination. PSI provided 500 proctors across different test centers, and the proctor pay rate increased by 66%. For the February 2023 exam, proctor recruitment was reassigned to admissions as PSI was no longer contracted to provide them for admissions.

2. For the February 2023 examination, approximately 66% of the overall capacity for all test centers was used to administer the exam compared to 69% for the February 2022 examination. Due to COVID, the February 2022 exam had lower maximum capacities based on seating one applicant per table.
3. Historically, approximately 81% of our total costs are related to facility rental, electrical, and proctors. For this examination, approximately 65% of the direct costs were associated with the facilities, electrical needs, and proctors.
4. For the February 2023 examination, administering the exam at Testing Accommodation test centers accounted for 9% of all applicants (371), and accounted for approximately 43.6% of the total exam cost.

For the February 2022 exam, there were 285 applicants that took the examination with testing accommodations. These applicants made up only 8.2% of the total number of applicants, while the cost to administer the examination to those applicants was approximately 40% of the total exam cost.

5. For the February 2023 exam, it costed approximately \$415 to administer the CBX to an applicant taking the examination at a standard test center compared to approximately \$3,831 for each applicant taking the examination at a test center for accommodated applicants.

The overall cost per applicant in February 2022 was approximately \$942 compared to \$679 per applicant for the February 2023 examination.

Administering examinations at test centers for accommodated applicants normally results in 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 2023 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 2023 California Bar Examination Cost Analysis be approved.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

A. February 2023 CBX Costs