



# The State Bar of California

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## **Testing Accommodations Stakeholder Input Forum** **Stakeholder Forum on Ways to Make Remote Testing Accommodations Secure** **Friday, November 3, 2023** **12:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

### **Purpose of the Forum:**

The State Bar of California is exploring the feasibility of remote administration and hybrid administration, which includes both in-person and remote modalities, for the July 2024 California Bar Exam. We are seeking suggestions for how to deliver the exam remotely regardless of what testing accommodations an applicant may have while preserving the exam's validity and integrity.

### **Remote California Bar Exams During 2020 and 2021:**

In response to health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, the State Bar of California administered the bar exam remotely to many applicants. In order to deliver the exam securely without compromising the validity or integrity of the exam, the State Bar required applicants with certain testing accommodations that were not compatible with the remote testing conditions in use at the time to test in-person. The State Bar has been conducting research on various approaches that could, if viable, expand access to remote testing, but we need your thoughts too. This forum is intended to elicit recommendations from stakeholders for approaches to expand the types of accommodations that can be used in a remote setting.

During the 2020 and 2021 remote exams, the accommodations that could not be administered remotely without compromising the security or validity of the exam included:

- Alternate formats of the exam: braille, hardcopy exam, or electronic exam with screen-reading software;
- Handwritten answers;
- Speech recognition software;
- Personal assistant: typist, reader, proctor/staff circling multiple-choice answers in test booklet, or dictating answers to a proctor for multiple-choice;
- Permission to leave the view of the camera during an exam session to use the restroom, lie down, or stretch on the floor; and
- Non-standard or uneven times between the written session and the multiple-choice session.

We strongly encourage participants to focus their comments and suggestions on how to deliver the exam securely in a remote setting for applicants granted testing accommodations.

Please know the State Bar is still in the fact-gathering stage of the exploration of the remote and hybrid exam. The facilitators' comments during the forum should not be interpreted as committing to or rejecting any particular course of action. Rather, the State Bar hopes to encourage an open dialogue spurring new avenues for exploration and analysis following the forum.