



The State Bar of California

Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Thursday, December 7, 2023
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools meeting commenced in open session at 1:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 2:59 p.m.

Chair: Linda Keller

Committee Coordinator: Natalie Leonard

Members Present: Paul Kramer, George Leal, Linda Keller, Kevin Marshall, Jessica Park,

Members Absent: Karen Travis

OPEN SESSION

ROLL CALL

The Committee on State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools was called to order by Chair Keller. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keller noted that four written public comments had been received and distributed to all committee members. The 4 written public comments were from Todd Hill (dispute with Peoples College of Law) and Clinton Brown (dispute with Northwestern California University School of Law). No members of the public signed up for public comment in advance. Chair Keller called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item, but no one requested verbal public comment.

I. CHAIR'S TIME

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2023, CSBARS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the October 11, 2023, CSBARS meeting be approved.

Moved by Kevin Marshall, seconded by Jessica Park

Aye – (5) Kramer, Leal, Marshall, Park, Keller

No – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Travis

Motion carries.

b. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair mentioned that Della Justice has resigned from CSBARS and applications are now open for the CSBARS position. Interested individuals can apply online at the CSBARS State Bar page. The chair also noted that Paul Kramer is now Chair of Ed Standards as well as serving on CSBARS.

The Chair also drew CSBARS' attention the State Bar's Law School Profile report, found on the state bar website. This report compares outcomes of graduates of the ABA, CALS, and unaccredited schools, including bar passage, based on the July 2022 first-time taker pass rate. The Chair noted that in press reports, Leah Wilson indicated plans for further review of the findings, and the Chair expressed hope that CSBARS will be a part of that conversation.

II. STAFF REPORTS

- A. 2024 CSBARS Schedule Featuring Tuesday Meetings: Natalie Leonard confirmed that 2024 CSBARS Meetings are scheduled for the following Tuesdays, prior to committee meetings. That date was selected after surveying CSBARS members. The proposed dates are as follows, with all meetings taking place from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The meeting schedule is also on the State Bar [website](#).
 - a. March 12, 2024
 - b. April 16, 2024
 - c. June 18, 2024
 - d. August 13, 2024
- B. Report on the Committee of Bar Examiners' Planning Session Items Related to Law School Rules: Natalie Leonard recapped the topics discussed at the committee's December planning meeting that related to law school accreditation.
- C. Recent Developments:
 - a. Cody Hounanian provided an update on the status of admissions rule revisions and law school fee proposal.
 - b. Amy Nuñez provided an update on the bar exam features experiment to continue in 2024 and encouraged law school administrators to advise their students about opportunities to participate. CSBARS members made the following suggestions informally:
 - i. Emphasize the unique feedback available to students participating in the exam related to their performance
 - ii. Advise about timing as soon as possible, and choose multiple dates if feasible
 - iii. Emphasize the modest time commitment and impact that students can have on future exams

- iv. Ensure that students know that participation cannot disadvantage them and may help them to prepare for the bar exam
- v. Consider timing that will allow law schools to work the experiment into the law schools' bar preparation program, with a class session being participation in the experiment
- vi. Incentives to register financially or via other means to assist in publicizing the experiment

III. Discussion

- A. Discussion of Options to Assist Students with Timely Adding of MPRE Scores to their Applicant Portal Accounts: Natalie Leonard discussed options to assist students with timely adding of MPRE scores to their applicant portal accounts. Students who register within 90 days of beginning law study will automatically have their MPRE scores added to their State Bar applicant profiles when selecting California as authorized to receive these scores. If scores are not timely added, this may delay licensure to the State Bar, even after passing the bar exam and meeting other licensure requirements. As action items, schools are urged to 1) advise students to comply with the rules and register with the State Bar within 90 days of beginning law study and discussing this in orientation; 2) consider requiring proof of registration with the State Bar before being allowed to select classes for the second academic term (semester or quarter); 3) consider reminding students to verify registration as part of their Professional Responsibility course. If students have not registered prior to taking the MPRE, they will need to send a request through their portal accounts advising the State Bar when they took the exam and when they requested their score be sent to California, if this was requested after they registered for the MPRE.

- B. Discussion of Timeline for Implementation of First-Year Law Students' Examination in Multiple-Choice Format: Amy Nunez discussed the timeline for implementation of First-Year Law Students' Examination in all multiple-choice format, scheduled to roll out in June 2024, and answered questions from CSBARS members. Members urged lowering the cut score though this is not part of the current plan, and keeping students and schools updated so that there is adequate notice regarding preparation for the exam, and reviewing the instructions for the new format of the exam to make sure they are clear and easy to understand. Member George Leal objected to the inclusion of both contributory and comparative negligence on the exam, regardless of format.

- C. Discussion of State Bar Research Regarding Exploration of Online Delivery of the California Bar Exam: Cody Hounanian discussed State Bar research regarding exploration of online delivery of the California Bar Exam. He requested feedback as far as questions,

suggestions, and resources students would need if some or all of the bar exam is administered online at some point in the future. Some members expressed support for this idea, but also requested notice, noting challenges and advantages to having the exam take place on consecutive days versus nonconsecutive days, and expressed interest in using software familiar to students when possible. One member suggested a forum, survey and/or focus group of takers regarding the proposal to move part of the July 2024 exam online, much like the forum that was limited to the topic of testing accommodations issues for a remote exam. Members were urged to share best practices or challenges they face in delivering exams online.

- D. Further Discussion on Law School Performance Report and Future Metrics and Indicators: Natalie Leonard revisited the Law School Performance Report previously discussed in the August 2023, CSBARS meeting, and introduced the Law School Profile Report, released December 1, 2023. CSBARS members requested the opportunity to preview such reports in the future prior to release.

MEETING ADJOURNED