



The State Bar of California

The Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) meeting commenced in open session at 1:03 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Linda Keller

Committee Coordinator: Natalie Leonard

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

Members Absent: Karen Travis

Staff Present: Lisa Chavez, Audrey Ching, Cody Hounanian, Natalie Leonard, Jean Krasilnikoff, Theresa Solenski

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order
The CSBARS was called to order by Chair Keller.
2. Roll Call
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. Call for Public Comment

Chair Keller announced that CSBARS received five written public comments; the comments were from Todd Hill and distributed to all CSBARS members. She called for verbal public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. There were no members of the public who wished to speak on any agenda item.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Open Session Minutes: January 23, 2024

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Park.

Ayes – (4) Kramer, Keller, Leal, Park,
Noes – (0)
Abstain – (1) Marshall
Absent – (1) Travis

Motion carries.

5. Chair Reports

Chair Keller provided an oral report highlighting two items that will be discussed on March 15, 2024, at the webcast Committee of Bar Examiners' Meeting:

Item III.A Update on Cost Reduction Initiatives Related to the Bar Exam, Beginning with the February 2025 Administration, which Chair Keller noted describes efforts to develop exam questions with a new unnamed vendor, including MC questions to replace the MBE. This would allow the State Bar to administer the whole exam at a vendor-owned test center, remotely or a combined approach. Chair Keller noted that this item may be of interest to schools who have been using NCBE materials to prepare students and grads for the bar exam.

Item IV.B Review and Approval of Standard Setting for the First-Year Law Students' Examination. This is a special set for 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

6. Staff Reports

Theresa Solenski provided an oral report on results of the annual audit of posting of Business and Professions Code section 6061.7(a) Disclosures on law school websites.

Cody Hounanian provided an oral report on the upcoming March CBE Agendized item IVB: Review and Approval of Standard Setting for the First-Year Law Students' Examination, noting that, pending Committee of Bar Examiners action at its March 15, 2024 meeting, State Bar staff will update webpages and contact applicants directly to share information about the transition to the all-multiple-choice First-Year Law Students' Examination to starting in June 2024.

Cody Hounanian provided an oral report on upcoming March CBE Agendized item III.A: Update on Cost Reduction Initiatives Related to the Bar Exam, Beginning with the February 2025 Administration, noting that this item will be discussed further at the Committee of Bar Examiners' meeting. Committee members suggested issues to be addressed such as feasibility of timeline, calibrating, and notice to students/graduates.

DISCUSSION

7. Natalie Leonard and Lisa Chavez led a discussion of the Law School Profile Report and options to improve outcomes in unaccredited law schools and sought feedback from

members as to how to improve progression and licensure at unaccredited law schools, consistent with a request from the Committee of Bar Examiners.

Members expressed interest in collecting demographic data such as socioeconomic status, income level, age, parental status, marital status, and average hours spent working weekly. One member also highlighted law school tuition and social mobility as important data points to track. Another member suggested mission-based outcomes may be appropriate to add. Because the ABA does not require law schools under its regulation to collect demographic information in the specific categories mentioned above, comparison across law school types may be challenging, though one member suggested the State Bar reach out to the ABA and request this type of information be collected. Staff noted that this request can be made, but it will be up to the ABA to decide whether to act on the request. One member also suggested that the State Bar disaggregate its data related to registered, unaccredited law schools to reflect possible differences between fixed-facility, distance, and correspondence schools.

Members expressed interest in using a consistent pass rate formula for both CALS and unaccredited law schools but expressed concern about the use of exams in general, especially to the extent that they rely on multiple-choice questions, which some members felt did not accurately assess an applicant's readiness to practice law competently.

CSBARS feedback will be conveyed to the Committee of Bar Examiners to inform future discussions.

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