



The State Bar of California

Discussion and Approval of Agreement with Kaplan North America, LLC For the Preparation of California Bar Exam Materials

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Introduction



Admissions Fund faces
insolvency in 2026

Exam administration
changes required



State Bar must retain a new
vendor to develop multiple-
choice questions first



Seeking authorization for Board
chair and executive director to
finalize negotiations and enter
into an agreement with Kaplan
North America, LLC



Steps Taken



Request for Information seeking proposals from vendors



Members of the Committee of Bar Examiners volunteer as liaisons to advise staff



Meetings with law schools and public stakeholder forum



Committee of Bar Examiners recommends to the Board that the State Bar retain a new question development vendor



Appropriate Vendor Choice



Experience
developing
MBE-like
questions and
legal licensure
exams



Satisfies exam
standards for
validity,
reliability, and
security



No substantial
modification of
training and
preparation



Capacity to develop
questions in time
for Feb 2025



Competitively
priced for State
Bar cost savings



Timeline

Content Development

June 2024

- Delivery of initial 35 multiple-choice questions

August-September 2024

- Study guide and faculty guide prepared

August-December 2024

- 150 multiple-choice questions delivered roughly monthly

Content Evaluation

August-December 2024

- State Bar and a panel of admittees, supervisors, and professors evaluate the content

October 2024

- Field testing questions during the California Bar Exam Experiment

Administration and Validation

February 2025

- New questions administered at the bar exam
- After, questions are validated using same approach as NCBE

Ongoing

- Questions provided to the State Bar at least six months prior to each administration





Key Terms of Agreement

- Kaplan to exit retail bar prep business in California for the CA bar exam
- Multiple-choice questions, consistent with previous bar exams in content and subject matter, to be developed in time for Feb 2025 exam
- 5-year term
- Written question development for Essay/PT question bank in 2026
- Applicant study guides and faculty guides available at no cost by late summer, 2024
- State Bar to own the IP





Fiscal Impact

- Estimated total cost of exam development and administration in 2025 is \$8.4 million.
- Estimated annual savings if the State Bar contracts with Kaplan and adopts alternative exam administration approaches:

Approach	Estimated Annual Savings
Fully remote	\$4.2 million
Vendor-owned test center	\$2.8 million
Hybrid	\$4 million

