

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Present were Eric M. Gross, Karen L. Karpie, Denise Martino Phelan, Timothy P. Pothin, Robert D. Silva, Kerry A. Tarpey, and Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Jessica F. Kallipolites, Administrative Director; Lisa Valko, Assistant Administrative Director; and James O'Connor, Counsel, Legal Services.

The Chair announced the results of the July 2016 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 246 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 264 as having passed the July 2016 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 108 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 264 as having failed to pass the July 2016 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2016 Connecticut bar examination and who had complied with the rules and regulations governing admission to the bar of the State of Connecticut be recommended to the judges of the Superior Court for admission to the bar, unless further evidence warrants review pursuant to Article VI of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee Regulations. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously that the 9 applicants who had obtained a passing grade on the July 2016 Connecticut bar examination, but whose applications disclosed issues concerning good character or fitness, be reviewed further pursuant to Article VI of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee Regulations.

The Chair welcomed new members Mr. Pothin and Ms. Tarpey, who thereafter introduced themselves to the Committee and provided brief professional biographies.

At 10:05 a.m., Mr. O'Connor left the meeting, and member Alix Simonetti arrived.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Meeting of July 8, 2016.

At 10:10 a.m., member Michael J. Whelton arrived.

Discussion was had regarding a comparison of the Committee's income and expenses from the current fiscal year to the previous fiscal year. It was noted that the number of applications filed have decreased and that reimbursement for staff benefits, the cost of exam sites, and the cost of providing non-standard testing accommodations have increased. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Whelton, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was

voted unanimously to approve the Fourth Quarterly Financial Report (April-June 2016) and the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

At 10:17 a.m., member Edward J. Gavin arrived.

Additional discussion was had concerning the \$33,500 deficit for the last fiscal year, possible revenue generators to offset such a deficit in the future, and appointment of a Strategic Planning Committee to consider possible long-term solutions. In an effort to immediately address the current deficit, the Committee discussed increasing the filing fee to sit for the bar exam by \$50 and the fee for using a laptop for the written portion of the exam by \$25.

At 10:35 a.m., member Mr. Gross left the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Silva, a majority voted to increase the filing fee to sit for the bar exam from \$750 to \$800 effective for the July 2017 bar exam by a vote of 9 to 1 with Mr. Wax-Krell voting against. Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Whelton, it was voted unanimously to increase the laptop fee by \$25 effective for the February 2017 bar exam.

The Chair appointed Mr. Whelton as Secretary *Pro Tem* for the meeting, and advised the Committee that an election to fill the Secretary position is necessary. Interested members were encouraged to notify Judge Elgo, who is the Chair of the Nominations Subcommittee, of their interest. The matter will be placed on the January 2017 agenda.

At 10:42 a.m., member Mr. Gross rejoined the meeting.

The Administrative Director provided an update on the Military Spouse Proposed Rule, which was presented to the Rules Committee at its September 19, 2016 meeting. An amendment to the proposal was suggested to account for the future administration of the Uniform Bar Examination in Connecticut. There was no objection by the CBA. The Rules Committee initiated an additional amendment to allow an individual admitted under this rule to continue practicing in Connecticut for up to one (1) year after his/her military spouse dies. The original time period proposed was ninety (90) days. The Rules Committee unanimously voted to submit the proposed rule as amended to public hearing in May 2016.

At 10:45 a.m., member Mr. Silva left the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Wax-Krell, it was unanimously voted to approve the proposed forms for use in connection with a Petition for Determination of Foreign Education.

At 10:47 a.m., member Mr. Silva rejoined the meeting.

The Administrative Director announced that the next NCBE Annual Conference will be held in San Diego, California from May 4-7, 2017. Members that are interested in attending were encouraged to email the Administrative Director.

Mr. Wax-Krell noted that the pass rate for the July 2016 bar exam was down and is one of the lowest rates that the Committee has seen in years.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 10:50 a.m. (EDT) and to reconvene in the non-public portion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. WHELTON
Secretary *Pro Tem*

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