

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC PORTION
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 10, 2008

The Chair, Anne C. Dranginis of Litchfield, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. (EDT). Present were members Raymond Beckwith, Kevin C. Connors, Mary Driscoll, Eric M. Gross, Honorable Arthur Hiller, Honorable Aaron Ment, David Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Honorable Barbara Quinn, Alix Simonetti, Matthew Wax-Krell and Michael Whelton. Present by invitation were Howard E. Emond, Jr., Deputy Director Attorney Services Section, Kathleen B. Wood, Administrative Director, and Joseph Del Ciampo, Counsel, Legal Services.

The Chair requested that the draft minutes for the June 20, 2008 meeting be revised to reflect that her appointment is out of Litchfield, not Hartford. Upon motion duly made by Judge Quinn, seconded by Judge Hiller, it was voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes for the June 20, 2008 meeting with the aforementioned revision.

The Chair announced that a total of seven hundred and eighty-seven (787) applicants had taken the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Moraghan, it was voted unanimously to deem those six hundred and forty-two (642) persons having achieved a passing grade of 264 as having passed the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Beckwith, it was voted unanimously to deem those one hundred and forty-five (145) persons who failed to achieve a passing grade of 264 as having failed the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge Hiller, it was voted unanimously to recommend those four hundred and sixty-eight (468) applicants who had passed the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination and whose applications disclosed that they had complied with all of the rules and regulations for admission be recommended to the Judges of the Superior Court to be admitted to the practice of law in Connecticut. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously that as to those one hundred and fifty-two (152) applicants who passed the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination, but whose applications disclosed technical defects be recommended to the Judges of the Superior Court for admission to the Connecticut bar upon the remedying of the defects unless further inquiry warrants review of their application pursuant to Article VI of the regulations of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Beckwith, it was voted unanimously to further review the applications of those twenty-two (22) applicants who had passed the examination but whose applications disclosed character and fitness issues, pursuant to Article VI of the rules and regulations of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Beckwith, it was voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Quarterly Report.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Judge Quinn, it was voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Annual Report.

Discussion was had regarding a proposed amendment to Article V-4 of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee Regulations regarding essay topics. A subcommittee consisting of Judge Ment, Judge Quinn, Ms. Phelan and Mr. Beckwith was formed. This subcommittee was charged with looking into the issue of the current essay topics and how the questions are generated and reporting back to the full committee with recommendations.

Discussion was had regarding a recent article about two (2) committee-approved law schools. No committee action was deemed necessary at this time. The committee charged Ms. Wood with retrieving the recent pass rates on the Massachusetts bar examination for the committee-approved law schools and to report the results to the full committee.

Discussion was had regarding a proposed pro bono practice rule for retired or inactive lawyers. A subcommittee consisting of Judge McLachlan, Ms. Simonetti and Mr. Wax-Krell was formed. This subcommittee was charged with looking into this issue, consulting with the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and reporting back to the committee with recommendations.

Discussion was had regarding proposed Practice Book amendments to include "fitness to practice law." The committee charged Ms. Wood with drafting the proposed amendments and reporting back to the committee.

The laptop subcommittee reported to the committee that additional time was needed to follow-up with those jurisdictions currently using laptop programs given the problems encountered by several jurisdictions last year and to properly implement our program given that the committee has a new administrative director. As such, the laptop program will not be implemented until the February 2010 bar examination.

Ms. Wood reported that a total of eight hundred and eighteen (818) individuals filed applications for Authorized House Counsel status, that four hundred and sixty (460) individuals have been recommended for certification, and that two hundred and forty-four (244) individuals have been certified.

Discussion was had that an inquiry should be made into whether the cut score should be higher than 264. The committee charged Ms. Wood with gathering documentation regarding the pass/fail rates for other jurisdictions that are comparable with Connecticut based on geography and population.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the agenda at 11:00 a.m. (EDT) and to reconvene in the non-public portion of the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

IRVING H. PERLMUTTER
Secretary