

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
MAY 8, 2015

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Present were Cynthia Baer, Richard F. Banbury, Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Karen L. Karpie, Gail E. McTaggart, Irving H. Perlmutter, Denise Martino Phelan, Robert D. Silva, Frederic S. Ury, and Michael J. Whelton. 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 then announced the results of the February 2015 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Perlmutter, it was voted unanimously to deem those 148 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 264 as having passed the February 2015 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, it was voted unanimously to deem those 71 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 264 as having failed to pass the February 2015 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Perlmutter, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the February 2015 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 CBEC Regulations. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Perlmutter, it was voted unanimously that the 6 applicants who had obtained a passing grade on the February 2015 Connecticut bar examination, but whose applications disclosed issues concerning good character or fitness, be reviewed further pursuant to Article VI of the regulations of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee.

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

The Chair and Mr. Gross reported on the May 2015 Annual Conference that was held in Chicago, Illinois and sponsored by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The reports focused on foreign-trained lawyers, conditional admission, and New York's adoption of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) effective for July 2016.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Perlmutter, seconded by the Chair, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Meeting of January 30, 2015.

Discussion was had regarding a comparison of the Committee's income and expenses from the current fiscal year to the previous fiscal year. Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Perlmutter, it was voted unanimously to approve the Third Quarterly Report (January – March 2015). Additionally, discussion was had regarding the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (2015-2016). Upon motion duly made

by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Whelton, it was voted unanimously to accept and approve the proposed budget.

Ms. Karpie delivered the report for the Massachusetts School of Law Subcommittee with the assistance of the Administrative Director. The Subcommittee visited the campus on April 29, 2015 and met with the Dean, faculty members and students. Of particular concern was the 0% pass rate from the July 2014 CT bar exam and the overall low passing rate for the last few years. Both the faculty and students were aware of this issue and steps were being taken to address the issue – such as offering multiple choice tests in some courses and encouraging students to register for bar preparation courses. The Subcommittee was favorably impressed with the dedication of the faculty and student body. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Ms. Karpie, it was voted unanimously to approve the Massachusetts School of Law for an additional three (3) years, beginning in January 2016, pursuant to Article II-1 (B) of the CBEC Regulations.

The Administrative Director provided a report for the upcoming July 2015 bar exam noting that the office has received 426 applications and that the 71 individuals that were unsuccessful on the February 2015 bar exam have an additional three (3) weeks to file an application for the upcoming exam pursuant to Article III-1 of the CBEC Regulations.

Member Mr. Silva left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Discussion was had concerning the expansion of the UBE, the globalization of the practice of law and the need for the Committee to be proactive. The UBE, along with foreign-trained lawyers, will be placed on the next agenda for continued discussion and consideration. It was further noted that various legal models have been implemented internationally and that the practice of law in the United States has not kept pace.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Perlmutter, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 10:58 a.m. (EDT) and to reconvene in the non-public portion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

IRVING H. PERLMUTTER
Secretary