

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via ZOOM
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
APRIL 21, 2023

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Deborah L. Bradley, Kevin C. Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera, Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Karen L. Karpie, Gail E. McTaggart, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Hon. Amir Shaikh, Alix Simonetti, Frederic S. Ury, Abby M. Warren, and Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; and Starr Carroll, Program Manager.

The Chair announced the results of the February 2023 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to deem those 57 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 266 as having passed the February 2023 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Moraghan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 104 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 266 as having failed to pass the February 2023 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the February 2023 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.

At 10:11 a.m., members Timothy P. Pothin and Martha S. Triplett arrived.

The Committee discussed the pass/fail rate for the February 2023 bar exam and the fact that the pass rate was slightly lower than recent February exams. It was noted that this was not unique to Connecticut as lower pass rates were reported across the country for this exam administration.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Escalera, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2023.

Mr. Wax-Krell presented the financial report for the Third Quarter (January – March 2023). It was noted that differences in expenses on the comparison sheet for 2022 versus 2023 were due to fluctuation in billing cycles/invoices and the addition of a staff person.

The Director provided a report on the upcoming July 2023 bar exam, noting that 240 applications have been received to date and that the final filing deadline is Monday, May 1, 2023. The filing deadline for applicants that were unsuccessful on the February 2023 bar exam is Friday, May 12, 2023. The Director also provided an update on the applicant portal and online application. Staff are working with ILG Technologies and the Judicial Branch's internal IT department to rollout the remaining application types (motion, UBE,

AHC, and so forth) after the July filing deadline has passed. The projected goal is the end of June.

Discussion was had regarding the availability of written answers through the portal for failing applicants and the publication of the sample answer booklet by staff. Failing candidates currently have the option of paying a fee for copies of their written answers, and all candidates (plus members of the public) currently have the ability to purchase a sample answer booklet produced and published by staff. This publication is labor intensive for staff to produce, has decreased utility over time, generates less revenue than in previous years, and takes up significant storage space for the unsold stock. Additionally, most purchases are by entities, such as law schools, as opposed to candidates, which were the original intended target population. It was also noted that the written components of the exam plus certain grading material produced by the National Conference of Bar Examiners can be provided to failing candidates. The consensus was to discontinue production of the sample answer booklet with the understanding that the issue could be revisited in the future if warranted. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by the Chair, it was voted unanimously to provide failing candidates with copies of their written answers, grading material as authorized by the NCBE, and one sample answer for each written item that received a score of “7” in exchange for a fee of \$35.

Thereafter, the Deputy Director presented information regarding possible amendments to Article IV of the CBEC Regulations governing the MPRE requirement. Discussion was had regarding enforcement of the regulation, differing rules depending on application type, and how this topic is handled by other jurisdictions. The Committee charged staff with drafting proposed regulation amendments for consideration at a future meeting.

At 11:00 a.m., Ms. Warren and Mr. Wax-Krell left the meeting.

Lastly, the Deputy Director updated the Committee on the status of resuming in-person formal hearings and committee meetings with a hybrid option / capability. The necessary equipment for the conference room at 90 Washington Street has been ordered and received but now needs to be installed. The projected time frame for installation is May or June, which will allow for use to start in June or July depending on availability (as the space is shared with other Judicial Branch offices).

The Chair adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 11:04 a.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN L. KARPIE
Secretary