

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC PORTION
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
JUNE 20, 2008

The Chair, Anne C. Dranginis of Litchfield, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Present were members John W. Barnett, Raymond Beckwith, Earl Dewey, Mary Driscoll, Eric M. Gross, Honorable Arthur Hiller, Honorable C. Ian McLachlan, Gail McTaggart, Honorable Aaron Ment, 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, and Kathleen B. Wood, Administrative Director.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Barnett, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes for the April 25, 2008 meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. McTaggart, seconded by Judge Quinn, it was voted unanimously to accept the Quarterly Report.

Ms. Wood reported that a total of eight hundred and twenty-two (822) individuals filed applications to sit for the July 2008 Connecticut bar examination.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Dewey, it was voted unanimously to approve the draft application for the February 2009 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge McLachlan, it was voted unanimously to allow the Administrative Office to publish the application for each bar examination without the committee's prior approval so long as there are no substantive changes. It was discussed that typically the only changes that are made from examination to examination are date specific, formatting and typographical errors that are noticed. In addition, it was noted that specific questions that appear on the application can be reviewed by the committee at any time.

Discussion was had regarding a request from a potential July 2009 bar applicant named Jonathan A. Gottesman that he be allowed an accommodation for the essay portion of the exam due to his religious observance of Tisha B'Av. If granted, the accommodation would allow Mr. Gottesman and others similarly situated to sit for the essay portion of the July 2009 bar examination on Friday, July 31, 2009 – as opposed to Thursday, July 30, 2009. Further discussion was had regarding the need for a proper facility to administer the exam on July 31st depending on how many individuals request such an accommodation. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Dewey, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to grant Mr. Gottesman's request for a religious accommodation for the July 2009 bar examination and to adopt forms similar to those utilized by NY for requesting such an accommodation.

Discussion was had regarding a request by local bar associations for the release of the names and correspondence addresses of those individuals passing each bar examination. Use of this information is to solicit membership, and is not used for any other purpose. Upon motion duly made by Judge McLachlan, seconded by Judge Ment, it was voted unanimously to begin including an opt-out provision in the February 2009 bar application allowing applicants to choose not to have their information released to local bar associations for this purpose.

The Chair recognized the many years of dedicated service by the previous officers: Mr. Beckwith, Judge Quinn and Mr. Barnett. Acknowledgements were made and tokens of the committee's appreciation were given to each.

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

Respectfully submitted,

IRVING H. PERLMUTTER
Secretary