

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via ZOOM  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

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., Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera, Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Karen L. Karpie, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Perry Zinn Rowthorn, Alix Simonetti, Frederic S. Ury, 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 July 2021 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 214 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 266 as having passed the July 2021 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 151 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 266 as having failed to pass the July 2021 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Wax-Krell, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2021 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 3 applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2021 Connecticut bar examination, but whose application 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 member Miguel A. Escalera, Jr. to the Committee and noted with appreciation the service of Erick I. Diaz, who recently went off the Committee.

At 10:06 a.m., member Timothy P. Pothin arrived.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2021, with the Chair and Mr. Escalera abstaining.

The Director provided a report for the upcoming February 2022 bar examination, which will be held in-person on February 22 and 23, 2022 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Discussion was had concerning necessary precautions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, possible vaccination requirements, possible exemptions to the vaccine, logistical issues for administering an exam in-person, and requirements mandated by the exam site. An Ad Hoc Subcommittee was formed with Ms. Phelan as Chair to consider these issues and to present recommendations to the full Committee.

The Deputy Director presented a report concerning the current approval for Massachusetts School of Law (MSL) pursuant to Article II-1 (B) of the CBEC Regulations. MSL was committee approved until January 2022 and, under normal circumstances, staff would have sought updated documentation from MSL for consideration of possible re-approval for an additional period of time. However, due to the pandemic and recent staffing changes, this was not done and instead an extension of the current approval was recommended in order to provide staff time to solicit updated information from MSL. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wax-Krell, seconded by Mr. Moraghan, it was voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation that approval be extended for one (1) year until January 2023.

The Director discussed a recent Practice Book change to the admission without examination rule that deleted the intent to practice in Connecticut as a prerequisite to applying for admission on motion. As such, the Director sought permission to delete references to this requirement that appear in the relevant application and forms. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Gavin, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to authorize the Director to make the proposed non-substantive updates to the relevant application and forms for admission without examination.

The Committee discussed the pass/fail rate for the July 2021 bar exam and noted that it is consistent with recent July exam administrations. It was noted that all of the passing candidates received their law degrees from ABA-approved law schools.

The Chair adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 10:25 a.m. (EDT) and then convened the non-public portion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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KAREN L. KARPIE  
Secretary