



The State Bar of California

Law School Council Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 6, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The Law School Council meeting commenced in open session at 1:00 p.m.
Time Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.
Chair: Mary Basick
Committee Coordinator: Natalie Leonard
Members Present: Susan Bakhshian; Mary Basick; Tiffany Gabrielson; Nydia Johnson; Devin Kinyon; Mary-Beth Moylan
Members Absent: Christopher Ide-Don
Staff Present: Audrey Ching; Adrian Galang; Cody Hounanian; Natalie Leonard; Ken Nourse; Patricia Salazar; Theresa Solenski

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order
The LSC was called to order by Chair Basick.
2. Roll Call
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. Call for Public Comment
Chair Basick called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item.

Two members of the public provided comment.

Ray Haden gave public comment expressing interest on multiple agenda topics including the update on the February 2025 bar exam administration and administration of June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Examination and the discussion of ways to increase applicant and repeater participation in State Bar exam preparation programs.

Todd Hill gave public comment expressing concern regarding the need to prioritize and promote inclusion of all races in legal education system.

Additionally, two written public comments were received and distributed to all committee members prior to the meeting (R. Hayden; T. Hill). Due to a technical issue arising at that time same, staff mistakenly advised that one public comment had been distributed. It was confirmed on camera that both comments were distributed on the normal schedule prior to the meeting, and this was confirmed via email to the individual commenters subsequent to the meeting.

4. Chair Report

Chair Basick advised that the agenda for the Committee of Bar Examiners' August 16, 2024, meeting would be posted that afternoon. She also thanked all members of the Law School Council for their service this year, particularly Christopher Ide-Don and Nydia Johnson, whose terms have been completed as of this meeting.

5. Director Report

This is the last meeting of the State Bar committee year for the Law School Council. Applications for the new year closed on June 30, 2024 and new members will be announced in early September.

The August Committee of Bar Examiners Meeting will take place in a hybrid setting. Members of the public can attend in person at the State Bar Los Angeles office or via logging on to the zoom link on the agenda via computer or phone.

6. Staff Report

Cody Hounanian provided an oral update on February 2025 bar exam administration. He highlighted that the Board of Trustees took action in its July 2024 meeting to finalize an agreement with Kaplan to assist in development of questions for the exam. Updates will continue to be shared with the public as they are available, and the application period will open on October 1, 2024. Currently, the exam is scheduled to be offered remotely and at in-person test centers.

Adrian Galang provided an oral update on administration of June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Examination and plan for analysis of the format. In order to allow time for the results of the standard setting study to be discussed and finalized at the Committee of Bar Examiners' meeting on August 16, 2024, results will be released on August 30, 2024 on a one-time basis. Pass-fail lists will be emailed to schools by September 4, 2024.

Patricia Salazar provided an oral update regarding updates to the guidelines applicable to individuals with a foreign first degree in law who are not admitted in any jurisdiction. They may now establish eligibility by completing an LLM degree under specified conditions. For full detail, please review the updated guideline and guidance posted on the admissions section of the State Bar website.

7. Approval of Open Session Minutes: June 11, 2024

Moved by Basick seconded by Bakhshian

Ayes – (4) Bakhshian, Basick, Gabrielson, Johnson, Kinyon

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (1) Moylan

Absent – (1) Ide-Don

Motion carries.

8. Business

- 8.1 Ken Nourse and Natalie Leonard led a discussion of ways to increase applicant and repeater participation in State Bar exam preparation programs. The programs discussed included: Bar Strategies and Stories Program, proven to have a positive impact on first generation students and underrepresented groups; Bar Retaker Support Group open to all California Retakers and whose; and a forthcoming program providing strategies for applicants diagnosed with ADHD. The State Bar offers these programs at no charge to applicants and participation has been strong, but there is interest to continue to increase participation.

All members supported these programs. Administrators indicated that it was challenging to gain the attention of graduates. They suggested: publicizing the programs widely while in law school; allowing sign up as part of the bar exam application process; intertwining mindset and exam skills topics, focusing on titles that emphasized the skills topics. Several schools noted that when mindset is identified as the topic of an event at the law schools, attendance is low, so the name should focus on the benefits to be gained instead.

- 8.2 Cody Hounanian led a discussion on member law schools' experience using generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the purpose of helping to provide feedback to the Committee of Bar Examiners as they consider what should be included in a practical guidance policy on the use of generative AI in law schools. Members highlighted the 1L Legal Writing courses as key areas to discuss the responsible use of artificial intelligence usage among students. Two members mentioned the addition of the course AI in the Law to their curriculum. Another member mentioned that their law school developed an optional AI training course for students.

Some council members stated that they strictly enforce in-person examinations to limit the opportunity for AI usage on graded coursework. Members also expressed caution in using AI in exam development though at least one school uses it this way and another stated AI can be useful in course planning.

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