



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

3.1 JUNE 2025

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: June 20, 2025

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Tara Clark, Program Director, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Action on Revised Moral Character Administrative Review Procedures
Pursuant to Rule 4.46.1 of the Rules of the State Bar

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 23, 2025, the California Supreme Court issued an order granting in part and denying in part the State Bar's request for approval of proposed revisions to the rules that govern the moral character process. The revised rules take effect on June 23, 2025.

Rule 4.46.1 of the Rules of the State Bar was revised, as requested, to require that the State Bar notify the applicant of the Committee of Bar Examiners' (CBE) decision within 10 days of the decision. The amendment requires a conforming change to the Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review by the Committee of Bar Examiners of Adverse Determinations of Moral Character (Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review), which currently require notification within 15 days of the CBE's decision.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the CBE approve the changes to the Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review set forth in Attachments A–B, effective June 23, 2025.

DISCUSSION

Generally, the amendments to rule 4.46.1 (formerly rule 4.47.1) mirror the current Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review. For reference, the redline version of the rule follows.

Rule 4.476.1 Request for Review ~~by~~ the Committee ~~of~~ Following an Adverse Moral Character Determination

- (A) An applicant notified of an adverse moral character determination by the State Bar ~~of moral character~~ may request ~~a~~ review of the determination by the Committee. The request must be submitted to the Office of Admissions within 30 days of ~~the date of receipt of the notice~~ notification of the State Bar's determination. The applicant may submit supplemental information ~~material~~ with the request.
- (B) The Committee must establish procedures for review of an adverse moral character determination issued by the State Bar, which must include that a review by a panel of two Committee members will occur within 60 days of receipt of the request for review and the panel will make a recommendation to the Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee may adopt the recommendation of the panel or take any other action it deems appropriate. The State Bar must notify the applicant of the Committee's decision within 10 days of the decision. ~~Within 60 days of receipt of the request for a review, the Committee will conduct a review of the record, which may include a review of the transcript or recording of the informal conference. The Committee may request additional information from the applicant or from the State Bar. The Committee must notify the applicant of its final determination within 30 days of its decision.~~

Rule 4.47.1 adopted effective September 1, 2019; amended effective June 23, 2025.

The amendments to rule 4.46.1 reduced the current time for an applicant to be notified of the CBE's decision upon administrative review from 30 days in the prior iteration of the rule, and 15 days pursuant to the current procedures, to 10 days in the revised rule. Staff and the working group requested this change to reflect the current process of notifying the applicant of the CBE's decision as soon as possible after the meeting. Accordingly, paragraph I of the Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review has been revised to require notification within 10 days of the CBE's decision. Additional minor changes have been made to the procedures to mirror the revised rules and make grammatical changes.

PREVIOUS ACTION

June 21, 2024, CBE meeting [Item VI](#), and July 18-19, 2024, Board meeting [Item 4.4](#), describing the proposed amendments to the Rules of the State Bar that govern the moral character process.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

None – core business operations

RESOLUTIONS

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners concur, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Committee of Bar Examiners approves the proposed revisions to the Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review by the Committee of Bar Examiners of Adverse Determinations of Moral Character set forth in Attachments A–B, effective June 23, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A. Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review (redline)
- B. Procedures Regarding Requests for Administrative Review (clean)