

### 3.1 Update and Action on February 2025 Bar Exam; Other Updates from the Office of Admissions



The State Bar *of California*

# 2025 Bar Exams: A Look Back at February and a Look Forward to July

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Board of Trustees, March 5, 2025

## A Quick Look at the Numbers

- 4,318 Scheduled to take the Exam
  - 2,781 remote
    - No show: 69
  - 1,537 in person
    - No show: No data
  - 348 scheduled for 1-day Attorneys Exam
  - 470 with testing accommodations
  - 137 handwriters scheduled
- 1,334 withdrawals
  - (1,066 since offer of full refund)



# Inputs from Measure Learning





# Meazure

- Preliminary data derived from applicants who took the test on the Meazure platform
- Test taker session start and end time for each session
- Submissions of written components with content
- MCQ and written answers
- Pending: Request for detailed data reports required under the MSA/SOW



# Inputs from Test Takers





# Test Taker Outreach

- Escalation to Measure Learning technicians during exam
- Calls to State Bar during and after exam
- Emails from test takers during and after exam
- Communication with State Bar staff on site at select test centers



## Types of Issues Reported: Technology

- Inability to launch exam at all
- Frequent disconnections
- Hours of tech support to get back to testing
- Running of time while addressing issues
- Unexpected submission of answers before completion / inability to submit answers
- Significant delays in starting the exam at test centers
- System not performing as expected
  - Cut and paste not functioning
  - Screen freezing (time continuing to run)
  - Lags in typed answers appearing on screen
  - Problems with highlighting
  - PT file and library not available





## Types of Issues Reported: Human

- Proctors and technical support unable to resolve problems
- Incorrect information from proctors / support
- Disruption by proctors to re-conduct security scan or adjust seating/camera position
- Frequent switching of proctors
- Unprofessional / rude behavior from proctors / support



# What Does This Tell Us

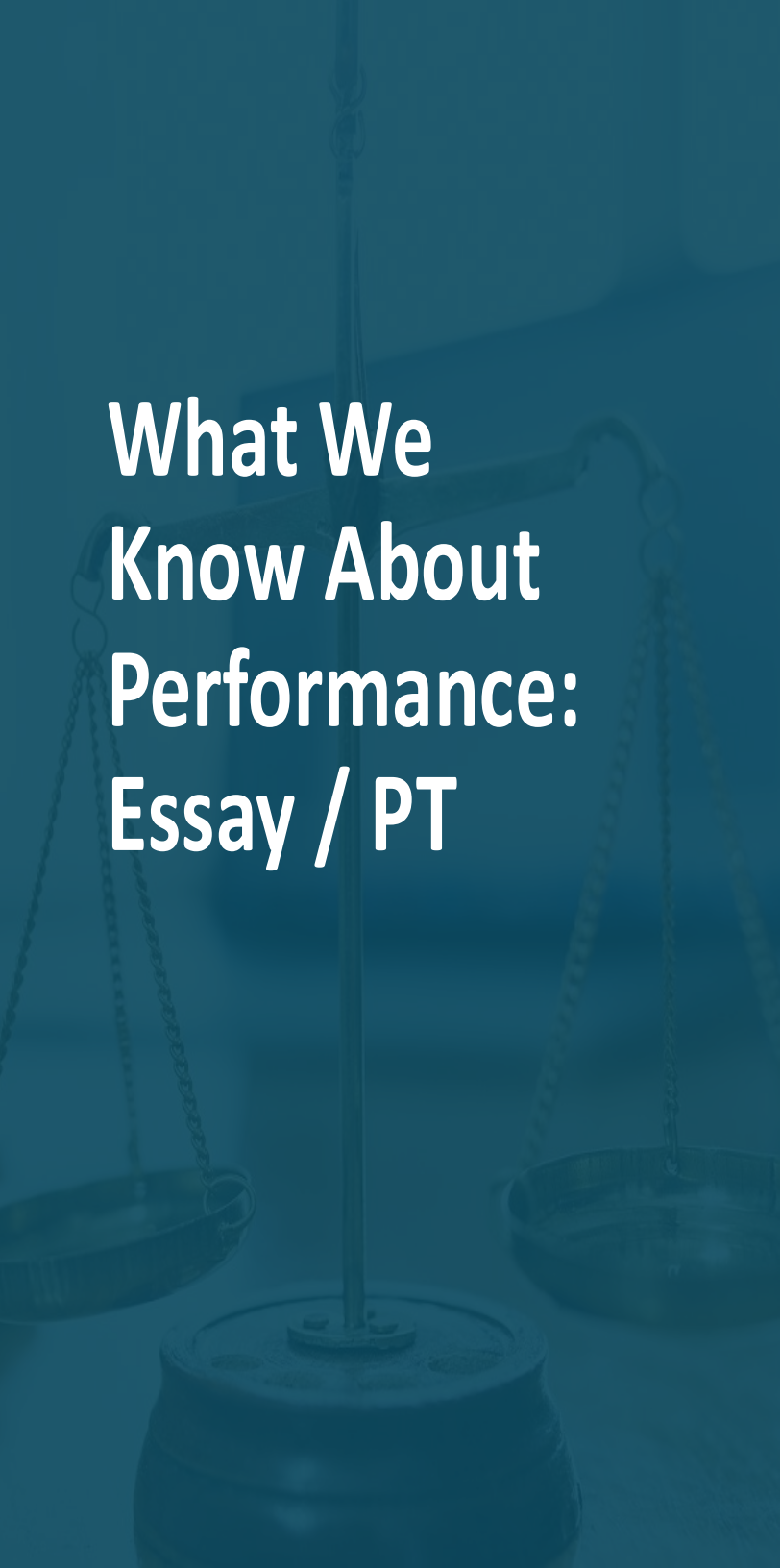




# What We Know About Performance

- Preliminary data from Measure paints a different picture than reports from test takers in terms of ability to complete MCQs and submit written content
- Disconnect between data and reported experience may lay in quality of responses / unhindered ability to demonstrate knowledge and minimum competence





# What We Know About Performance: Essay / PT

- ~4100 applicants using the Measure Learning Platform
  - 98% had some content on all 6 written components
  - 1.3% had content on 4 or 5 written components
  - Fewer than 1% had no content on 3 or more written components





# What We Know About Performance: MCQs

- 12 using Measure Learning platform failed to complete any MCQs due to tech issues
- 20 failed to complete more than 1 MCQ section
- Of the remaining ~ 4000
  - 98% submitted answers to at least 195 out of 200 questions



# Efforts to Identify Impacts on Quality



Review of random sample of test takers to assess response quality and anomalies



Survey of test takers issued March 4

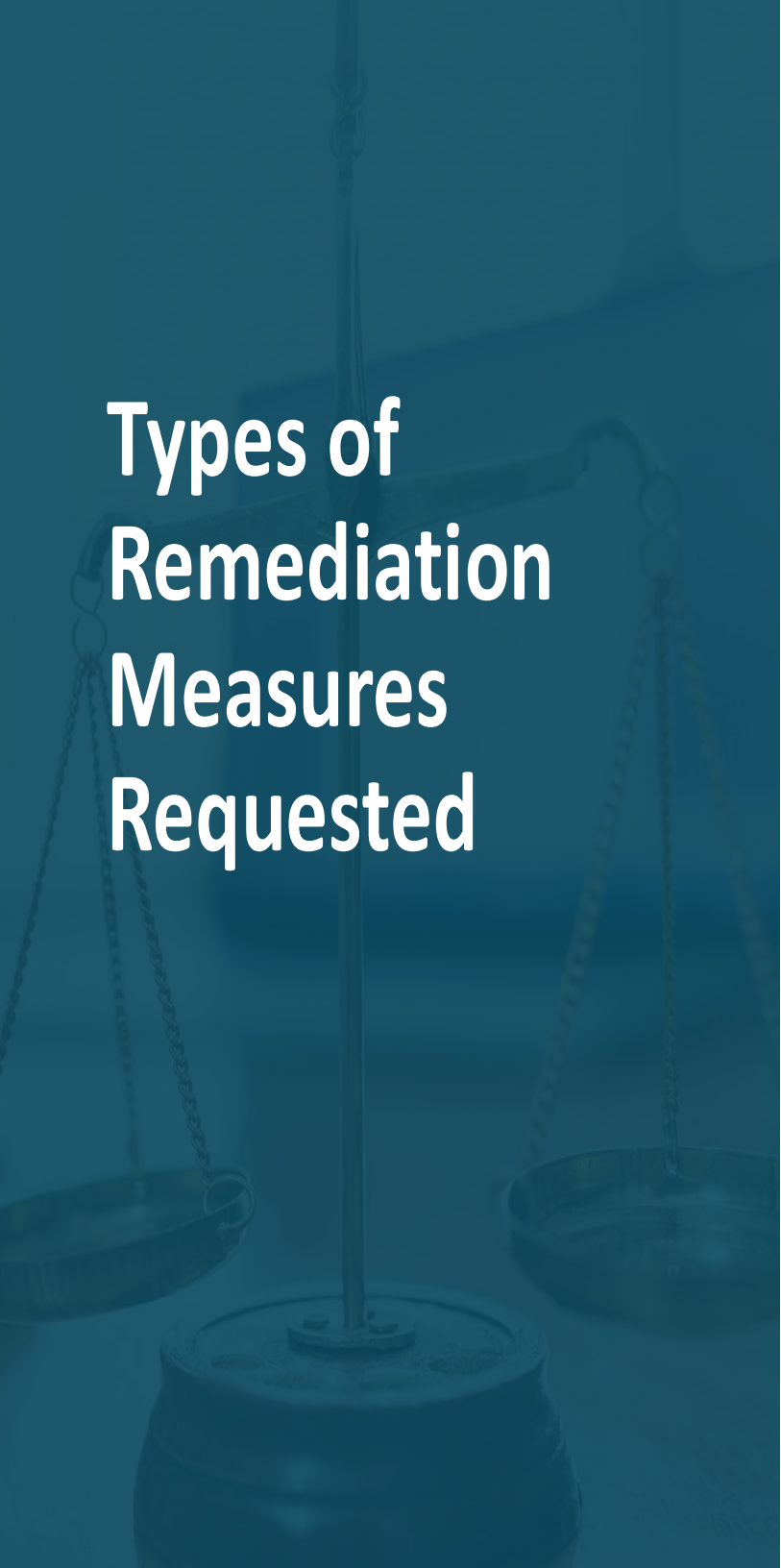


Exploration of the distribution of MCQ performance on past and current February exams



In depth review of data once received from Meazure





# Types of Remediation Measures Requested

- Individualized solutions
- Global solutions
- Solutions specific to certain exam components



# Types of Remediation Measures Requested



**Individual  
point  
adjustments**



**Consideration  
of  
circumstances  
by graders**



**Adding of  
points to all  
test takers'  
scores**



**Retakes for All  
or Some**



**Retake of  
Performance  
Test**





# Types of Remediation Measures Requested



Reducing the  
pass line / cut  
score



Ensuring a set  
percentage of  
test takers pass



Refunds to all  
test takers /  
extension of  
free retake  
through Feb  
2026



Provisional  
Licensure



Admission of  
all test takers /  
Diploma  
Privilege



# Discussion of Suggested Remediation Options



# Full or Partial Retests Offered to More Than 85 Test Takers



Test takers unable to launch the exam entirely



Test takers who submitted fewer than 4 of 6 written components with content in the answer / notes



Test takers who submitted fewer than 3 out of 4 MCQ sections





# Supreme Court Action Required

- Supreme Court action required for many / most, including:
  - Change to the Pass Line / Cut Score
  - Ensuring a set percentage of test takers pass
  - Passing all test takers
  - Provisional Licensure
  - Diploma Privilege





# Psychometric Solutions

- Retest of those who do not have sufficient content for possible imputing of scores
- Psychometric analysis v. consideration of circumstances by graders
- Psychometric analysis / solutions typically follow the scoring of the exams and determination of whether / how some or all applicants impacted





# Challenges with Some Global Solutions

- Lack of knowledge of whether and extent to which all applicants impacted
- High percentage of repeat takers
- Low passage rate on February bar exams
  - Are solutions like provisional licensure appropriate?





## November Special Session

- What did / should we have learned from the November Special Session?



Looking Ahead

# July 2025 Bar Exam Administration



The State Bar of California