

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



A background image of a pair of scales of justice, rendered in a dark teal color. The scales are positioned on the left side of the slide, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The overall aesthetic is professional and legal.

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 Meazure 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 Meazure 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

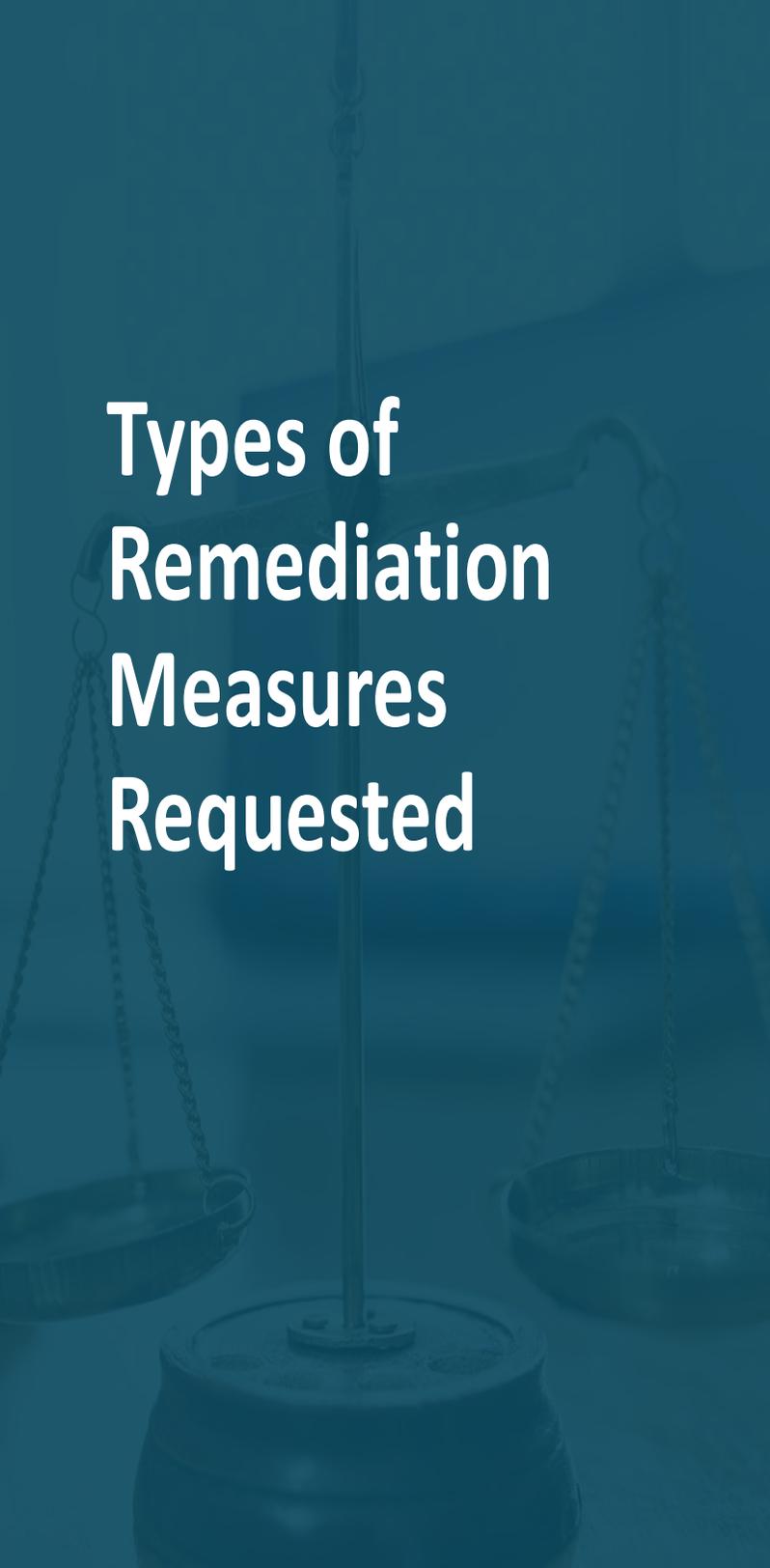


Exploration of the distribution of MCQ performance on past and current February exams



In depth review of data once received from Meazure



A pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, rendered in a dark teal color. The scales are positioned on the left side of the slide, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The overall background is a solid teal color.

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**



February 2025 Bar Exam: Looking Back

Discussion of Suggested Remediation Options



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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



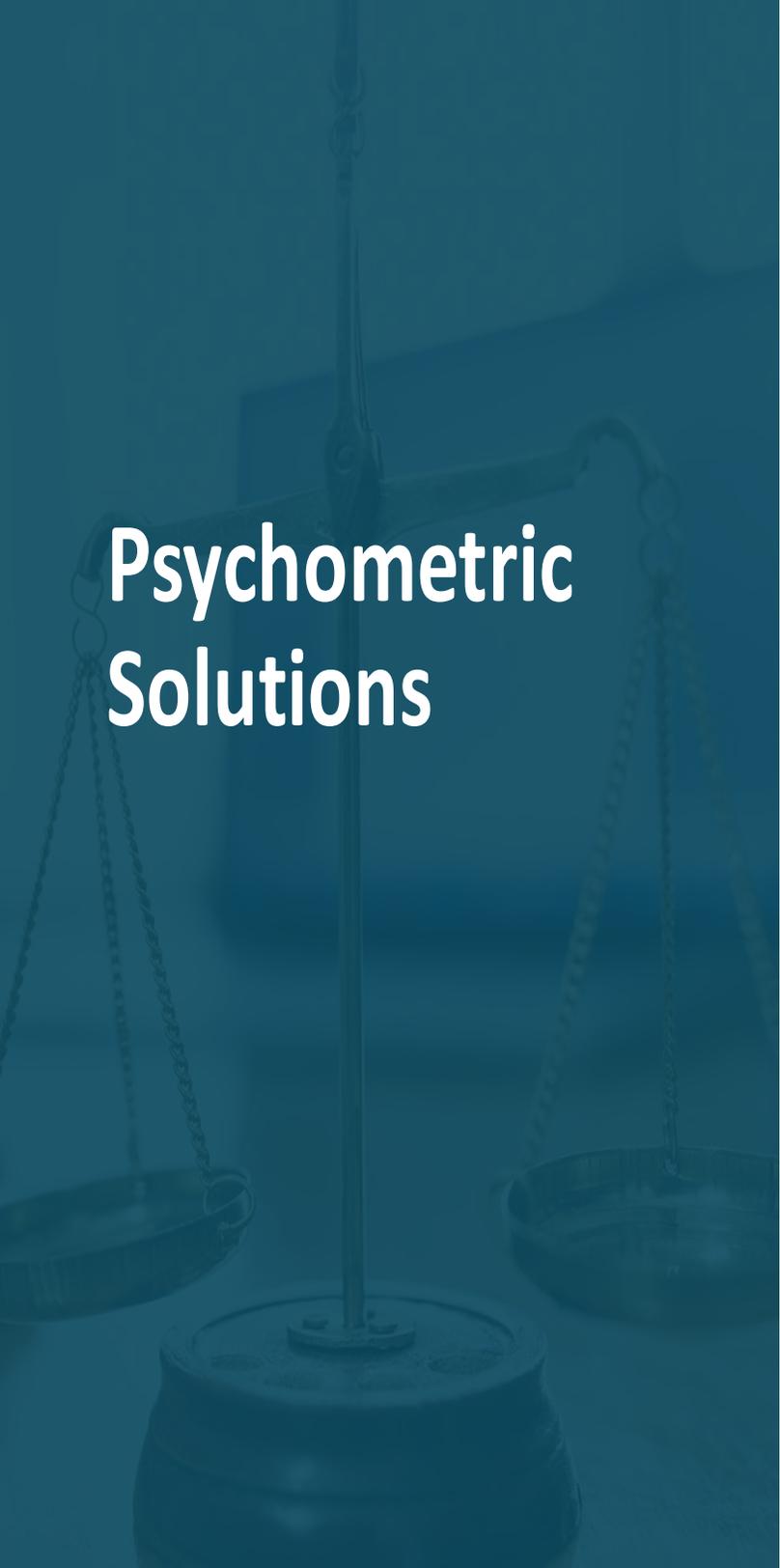
Test takers who submitted fewer than 3 out of 4 MCQ sections



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



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