

3.2 Approval of Technical Report on the October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam (FYLTX)



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

3.2 MARCH 2025

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

DATE: March 14, 2025

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Adrian Galang, Program Manager, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Approval of Technical Report on the October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam (FYLSX)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A technical report for the October 2024 administration of the First-Year Law Students' Exam was prepared by the Committee's psychometrician, ACS Ventures, LLC. The report includes information about the scoring process and summarizes the statistics for that exam taker population.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

After results from the First-Year Law Students' Exam are released, the Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) psychometric consultant prepares a technical report on the exam.

DISCUSSION

Attached is the technical report prepared by ACS Ventures, LLC., on the October 2024 administration of the First-Year Law Students' Exam. Staff requests that the Committee approve the report, after which it will be received and filed.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

None – core business operations

RESOLUTIONS

Should the Committee of Bar Examiners concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Committee of Bar Examiners receive and file the technical report on the October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam, prepared by ACS Ventures, LLC.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A.** Technical Report on the October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam
- B.** October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam General Statistics Report

Technical Report on the October 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam

November 25, 2024

The First-Year Law Students' Exam (FYLSX) consists of 100 multiple-choice questions. The multiple-choice exam assesses applicants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in three subject areas: Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. The October administration of this exam marks the second in which essays were not included in the exam. Ninety of the 100 multiple-choice items, 30 from each subject area, contributed to the applicant's total score. Also among the 90 scored items were 30 items used to equate the scores on the October exam to scores on the June exam. The June 2024 exam form will serve as the equating reference form for subsequent administrations.

Each exam item has a value of one point. The total number of correctly answered questions is the applicant's raw score. Tucker linear equating was performed on the raw scores from the June and October exams. Those equated raw scores were then scaled so that applicants who earn a scaled score of at least 560 passed the exam. The scale score range for the FYLSX is 0 to 800. For this administration of the exam, the scaling function is as follows:

$$\text{Scale Multiple Choice Score} = \begin{cases} 9.08 \times \text{Raw Multiple Choice Score}, & \text{Raw Score} \leq 62 \\ 8.56 \times (\text{Raw Multiple Choice Score} - 62) + 560, & \text{Raw Score} > 62 \end{cases}$$

Of the 228 applicants who took the exam, 61 had scaled scores of at least 560, and 167 applicants had scores less than 560. The pass rate is therefore 26.8%; approximately 6% lower than the rate from June.

Table 1 shows summary statistics for the October FYLSX. The reliability for the multiple-choice exam was 0.87. This value is considered acceptable for high-stakes examinations. Additional information for this exam can be found in the associated General Statistics included with this report.

Table 1 - FYLSX Summary Statistics

	Value
Number of Applicants	228
Mean	
<i>Raw Score out of 90</i>	52.6
<i>Scale Score out of 800</i>	474.2
Standard Deviation	
<i>Raw Score</i>	12.4
<i>Scale Score</i>	111.0
Reliability	0.87



The State Bar of California

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

California First-Year Law Students' Exam: October 2024

General Statistics Report¹

Schools with 11 or More Takers

TYPE OF LAW SCHOOL	FIRST-TIMERS		REPEATERS		ALL TAKERS	
	N	% PASS	N	% PASS	N	% PASS
ABA Accredited – CA*						
CBE Accredited*	26	15.4	31	16.1	57	15.8
Other	21	19.0	25	32.0	46	26.1
Not Registered / Closed			14	28.6	20	35.0
CA Unaccredited – Correspondence	14	50.0	14	14.3	28	32.1
CA Unaccredited – Distance Learning	21	42.9	35	31.4	56	35.7
CA Unaccredited – Fixed-Facility			14	14.3	15	13.3
Total Applicants Taking the Exam ²	95	30.5	133	24.1	228	26.8

*Regularly enrolled students at ABA-approved and California-accredited law schools who complete their first year of law study and advance to their second year are exempt from the First-Year Law Students' Exam (FYLSX) requirement. Students, however, may elect to take the Exam on their own and some may take it to fulfill their schools' requirements.

Disqualified³ and Special Students⁴

Schools with 11 or More Takers

TYPE OF LAW SCHOOL	DISQUALIFIED		SPECIAL	
	N	%PASSING	N	%PASSING
ABA Accredited – CA				
CBE Accredited	20	5.0		
Other				
Not Registered/Closed				
Unaccredited – Correspondence				
Unaccredited – Distance Learning				
Unaccredited – Fixed-Facility				
Total Taking the Exam	28	10.7	6	50.0

¹ These statistics were compiled using data available as of January 10, 2025.

² Applicants who attended all sessions of the exam and have a complete set of scores, which may include zeros.

³ **Disqualified** students are those who have been disqualified from ABA approved and California Accredited law schools and whose readmission wholly or partially may be contingent upon passing the FYLSX or who are seeking to obtain an additional year of law study credit for purposes of transferring to other schools.

⁴ **Special** students are those who have not completed at least two years of college prior to matriculating at ABA approved or California Accredited law schools. These students are required to take and pass the FYLSX.

California First-Year Law Students’ Exam: October 2024
California ABA-Accredited Schools
Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
Pepperdine University Rick J. Caruso SOL						
Santa Clara University School of Law						
Southwestern Law School						
University of San Francisco School of Law						
TOTAL	6	2	33.3	6	2	33.3

California-Accredited Schools
Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
JFK School of Law at National University						
Lincoln Law School of Sacramento						
Northwestern California University SOL						
Purdue Global Law School						
The Colleges of Law, Ventura						
Trinity Law School	31	3	9.7	14	2	14.3
University of West Los Angeles SOL						
TOTAL	57	9	15.8	26	4	15.4

California First-Year Law Students’ Exam: October 2024
Unaccredited Correspondence Law Schools
Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
American Institute of Law						
Oak Brook COL and Gov’t Policy						
Taft Law School	14	3	21.4			
TOTAL	28	9	32.1	14	7	50.0

Unaccredited Distance Learning Law Schools
Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
Abraham Lincoln University SOL	22	7	31.8			
California School of Law	25	7	28.0	11	5	45.5
Pacific Coast University School of Law						
Southern California Institute – Ventura						
TOTAL	56	20	35.7	21	9	42.9

Unaccredited Fixed-Facility Law Schools
Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
California Desert Trial Academy COL						
Lincoln Law School of San Jose						
Western Sierra Law School						
TOTAL	15	2	13.3	1	0	0.0