

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



# The State Bar of California

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**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)

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## **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.

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## **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



**California First-Year Law Students' Exam: October 2024**  
**General Statistics Report<sup>1</sup>**  
Schools with 11 or More Takers

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

**Disqualified<sup>3</sup> and Special Students<sup>4</sup>**  
Schools with 11 or More Takers

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

<sup>1</sup> These statistics were compiled using data available as of January 10, 2025.

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

<sup>3</sup> **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.

<sup>4</sup> **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						
<b>TOTAL</b>	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						
<b>TOTAL</b>	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			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50.0</b>

**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						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42.9</b>

**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						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>