

1.2 Committee of Bar Examiners Workplan



The State Bar *of California*

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS 2024 WORK PLAN

Charge:

The Committee of Bar Examiners is comprised of 19 members:

- Three public members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;
- Three public members appointed by the Senate Rules Committee;
- Three public members appointed by the Governor; and
- Ten members appointed the California Supreme Court, including one judge and nine attorneys (one of whom must have been admitted to practice law within three years of their appointment).

The charge of the committee is as follows:

- Examine all applicants for admission to practice law.
- Administer the requirements for admission to practice law.
- Certify to the Supreme Court for admission those applicants who fulfill the requirements.
- Determine the pre-legal and legal education eligibility of applicants.
- Determine whether an applicant possesses the requisite good moral character to practice law.
- Accredite law schools and register unaccredited and correspondence law schools, in accordance with the State Bar Rules, in California.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL	STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION STEP	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE	PRIORITY
Moral Character One-Time Assignments						
None – Core business operations			Moral Character Rules Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review further revisions to the rules and recirculate for a second round of public comment Review public comment for further action (recommendation of adoption or further public comment) 	January 2024 – Completed June 2024 – Completed	Y / March 2024 – Completed July 2024 – Completed	X
Moral Character Annual Assignments						
None – Core business operations			Trainings and Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation related to a Moral Character Determination and Lawyer Assistance Program 	Tentative Schedule: October 2024	N	
None – Core business operations			Conduct administrative reviews of adverse moral character determinations and make final determinations with respect to Applications for Determinations of Moral Character.	Ongoing	N	

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL	STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION STEP	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE	PRIORITY
Examinations One-Time Assignments						
Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to, and Inclusion in, the Legal System	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Increase the number of diverse attorneys in the legal profession through diversity pipeline programs that support aspiring attorneys in graduation from law school and passing the bar exam	Testing Accommodation Rules Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze impact of new rules, forms, and processes and produce tracking metrics 	To be determined, pending Court approval	N	
None – Core business operations	Effectiveness	Revise the bar admissions requirements to be more relevant to the practice of law, in alignment with the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam	Develop recommendations regarding certain components of bar exam delivery: remote v. in person; open book v. closed book; time limit on questions; (informed by the AccessLex Study)	CBE - 2025, at completion of AccessLex Grant	Y/ 2025	X

Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Policy and Systems Change		Consider conducting a standard-setting study to determine whether the passing score for the First-Year Law Students' Examination should be raised or lowered	August 2024—completed	N	X
None – Core business operations			Conduct landscape analysis of trends in licensing across the 50 states and Canada, to include assessment of bar exams and alternative pathways to licensure			
None- Core business operation			Review of current MPRE cut score			
None- Core business operation			If the Court accepts the BRC recommendation that California develop its own bar examination based on the CAPA recommendations related to knowledge, skills and abilities, embark on the development of a new CA bar examination designed with the guiding principles adopted by the Blue Ribbon Commission in mind, including crafting an exam that is fair, equitable, and minimizes disparate performance impacts based on race, gender, ethnicity, disability, and other immutable characteristics.			X

None- Core business operation			If the Court accepts the State Bar recommendation that California conduct a pilot of a portfolio bar exam as a pathway to licensure, staff will begin to develop and implement this program, with guidance from the CBE.			X
Examinations Annual Assignments						
Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to, and Inclusion in, the Legal System	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion		Provide input on strategies for identifying methods to diversify grader and exam developer pool.	Ongoing	N	
None – Core business operations			<p>Trainings and Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Substantive Issues in Evaluating TA Requests • Presentation from the Examination Development and Grading (EDG) Team on the Basics of Essay Question Development 	<p>Ongoing Tentative Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2024 – Completed • Dec 2024 	N	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation from Performance Test (PT) Drafting Team Member on the Basics of PT Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 2024 		
None – Core business operations			Edit and approve final versions of the essay questions and select performance test questions for administration on California Bar Examinations.	Ongoing	N	
None- Core business operations			Review reports on administrations of the California First-Year Law Students' and California Bar Examinations.	Ongoing	N	
None- Core business operations			Consider draft reports to the Supreme Court of California on the July 2023 and February 2024 California Bar Examinations.	January 2024— completed August 2024— completed	N	
None- Core business operations			Consider petitions seeking waivers of the Committee's examinations-related policies, procedures, and rules.	Ongoing	N	
None- Core business operations			Review testing accommodations requests for review from applicants	Ongoing	N	

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL	STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION STEP	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE	PRIORITY
Operations and Management One-Time Assignments						
Goal 2: Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Effectiveness	Increase the number of attorneys admitted through special admissions programs	Special Admissions: Multijurisdictional Practice and Foreign Legal Consultant Rules Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review further revisions to the rules and circulate for public comment 	October 2024	Y/ November 2024	X
Goal 2: Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System			Review and revisions of Admissions Rules relevant to Exam Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend rule revisions to the Board to circulate for public comment Review public comment, make revisions as appropriate and recommend appropriate further action (adoption or circulation for further public comment) 	Returning to CBE: December 2024	Y/ 2025	X

Goal 2: Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System			Eligibility Rules Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review further revisions to the rules and circulate for public comment 	January/ March 2025	Y / March 2025	
Goal 2: Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System			Practical Training of Law Students (PTLS) Rules Revisions: review possible changes to authorize Law Office Study (LOS) applicants to participate in PTLS Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review further revisions to the rules and recirculate for a second round of public comment 	December 2024	Y / March 2025	X
None- Core business operation			Law Office Study (LOS) Rules Revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review further revisions to the rules and recirculate for a second round of public comment 	December 2024	Y / March 2025	X
None-Core business operations			Evaluate whether to phase out handwriting options for non-TA applicants on bar exam.	December 2024		

Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to, and Inclusion in, the Legal System			Develop detailed recommendations related to reciprocity to assist the Supreme Court in responding to the likely recommendation of the BRC			
---	--	--	---	--	--	--

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL	STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION STEP	WORK PLAN	DEADLINE	TO BOARD COMMITTEE (Y/N) / DATE	PRIORITY
Educational Standards One-Time Assignments						
Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Policy and Systems Change	Collaborate with stakeholders and law schools to improve the law school accreditation process.	Pursue mandatory accreditation and/or initiatives to improve outcomes for unaccredited (registered) law schools in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners and the Board of Trustees	Mandatory accreditation: Further discussion required Initiatives: Ongoing; December 2024	Mandatory accreditation: Y/TBD Initiatives: Y/March 2025	X

Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Policy & Systems Change	Collaborate with stakeholders and law schools to improve the law school accreditation process.	Review Unaccredited Law School Rules	Ongoing; December 2024	Y/March 2025	X
Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Policy and Systems Change		<p>Provide input on report on performance of accredited and unaccredited law schools; review measures to be included in future reports.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law School Performance Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed August 2023 b. CSBARS review completed October and December 2023 2. Law School Profile Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. CBE review in Jan 2024 	January 2024 - completed	N	

Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to, and Inclusion in, the Legal System	Effectiveness	Revise admissions requirements to be more relevant to the practice of law in alignment with the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam.	Monitor admissions and licensure requirements to ensure that law school rules require appropriate coursework for licensure.	Ongoing	N	
Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System	Policy and Systems Change		Evaluate CBE role in non-JD programs.	March 2024 - completed	N	
Goal 4. Protect the Public by Engaging Partners	Policy and Systems Change	Serve as an incubator for innovation, share successes and best practices, and support implementation efforts in other organizations.	Explore requirements for California-accredited law schools to require courses regarding the competent use of generative AI; and regulations or rules related to the bar exam and generative AI.	December 2024		

Educational Standards Annual Assignments						
None – Core business operations			Trainings and Presentations: Presentation from institutional accreditor	December 2024	N	
None – Core business operations			Maintain and enhance law school engagement by conducting meetings with the Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) and the Law School Council (LSC), publishing the quarterly Law School Deans' eNewsletter.	Ongoing		
None – Core business operations			Review petitions for registration, accreditation, and jointly accredited status as well as existing registered and accredited law schools' petitions for changes.	Ongoing		
None – Core business operations			Review progress reports and waivers submitted with Annual Compliance Reports.	Ongoing		

None – Core business operations			Review Minimum, Cumulative Five-Year Bar Pass Rate statistics from accredited law schools for compliance	August 2024 – completed		
---------------------------------	--	--	--	-------------------------	--	--

