

3.2 Technical Report on the June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Examination (Galang)



# The State Bar of California

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**OPEN SESSION  
AGENDA ITEM 3.2  
OCTOBER 2024  
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS**

**DATE:** October 11, 2024

**TO:** Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

**FROM:** Adrian Galang, Program Manager, Office of Admissions

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Technical Report on the June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

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## **BACKGROUND**

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 Russell Keglovits, M.Ed., on the June 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.

## **FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT**

None

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Exam, prepared by Russell Keglovits, M.Ed., ACS Ventures, LLC.

**ATTACHMENT(S) LIST**

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

## Technical Report on the June 2024 First-Year Law Students' Examination

Russell Keglovits, M.Ed.

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The First-Year Law Students' Exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions – 90 scored questions and 10 unscored. The multiple-choice exam assesses applicants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in three subject areas: Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. In the past, the First-Year Law Students' Exams (FYLSX) included an essay portion, so the June 2024 administration marks a change in the exam structure from prior years. As such, the June 2024 exam will serve as a new baseline for applicant performance. Ninety of the 100 multiple-choice questions, 30 from each subject area, contributed to an applicant's total score. The additional 10 questions were used for pretesting and as potential substitutes if any of the scored questions did not perform well statistically.

Each exam question has a value of one point. The total number of correctly answered questions is the applicants' raw score. The raw score was transformed into a scale score to maintain the meaning of a fixed passing score on that scale. On that scale, applicants who earn a scaled score of at least 560 pass 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:

If the total raw multiple-choice score  $\leq 62$ :

Total scaled score = (Total raw multiple-choice score  $\times$  9.03)

If the total raw multiple-choice score  $> 62$ :

Total scaled score = (Total raw multiple-choice score  $\times$  8.57) + 28.57

Of the 243 applicants who took the exam, 79 had scaled multiple-choice scores of at least 560, and 164 applicants had scores less than 560. This means that the pass rate for the June 2024 FYLSX exam was 32.5%. Given the structural changes to the June administration of the FYLSX, there were no reappraisals of applicant exams with scores near the passing cut as had been done in the past. The scaled multiple-choice score alone determined the applicant's pass or fail status.

Table 1 shows summary statistics for the June 2024 FYLSX. Internal consistency reliability for the multiple-choice exam was 0.89. This value can range from 0 to 1.00 with values of approximately 0.85 or higher considered acceptable for high-stakes examinations. Additional information for this exam can be found in the associated General Statistics spreadsheet included with this report.

Table 1 - FYLSX Summary Statistics

	<b>Value</b>
Number of Applicants	243
Mean	
<i>Raw Score out of 90</i>	55.1
<i>Scale Score out of 800</i>	497.1
Standard Deviation	
<i>Raw Score</i>	12.4
<i>Scale Score</i>	110.6
Reliability	0.89



## California First-Year Law Students' Exam: June 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
ABA Accredited – CA*						
CBE Accredited*	19	15.8	17	35.3	36	25.0
Other	38	31.6	17	29.4	55	30.9
Not Registered / Closed						
CA Unaccredited – Correspondence	20	30.0			30	30.0
CA Unaccredited – Correspondence	54	31.5	18	38.9	72	33.3
CA Unaccredited – Fixed-Facility	20	30.0			29	34.5
<b>Total Applicants Taking the Exam<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>161</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>32.5</b>

\*Regularly enrolled students at ABA approved and California Accredited law schools who successfully complete their first year of law study and are advanced 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 fulfil 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
ABA Accredited – CA				
CBE Accredited				
Other				
Not Registered/Closed				
Unaccredited – Correspondence				
Unaccredited – Correspondence				
Unaccredited – Fixed-Facility				
<b>Total Taking the Exam</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>55.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> These statistics were compiled using data available as of October 3, 2024.

<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: June 2024

### California ABA Accredited Schools Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
Chapman University Dale E. Fowler SOL						
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>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37.5</b>

### California Accredited Schools Schools with 11 or More Takers

LAW SCHOOL	ALL TAKERS			FIRST-TIMERS		
	N	PASSED	%PASSING	N	PASSED	%PASSING
Cal Northern School of Law						
Lincoln Law School of Sacramento						
Monterey College of Law						
Northwestern California University SOL	17	8	47.1			
Purdue Global Law School						
The Colleges of Law, Santa Barbara						
The Colleges of Law, Ventura						
Thomas Jefferson School of Law						
Trinity Law School						
University of West Los Angeles SOL						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.8</b>

## California First-Year Law Students' Exam: June 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	13	6	46.2			
Oak Brook COL and Gov't Policy						
Taft Law School	16	2	12.5	11	1	9.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30.0</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	27	9	33.3	21	6	28.6
California School of Law	16	4	25.0	12	3	25.0
Irvine College of Law	11	3	27.3			
Pacific Coast University School of Law						
Southern California Institute – Ventura	13	7	53.8	11	5	45.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31.5</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	17	7	41.2			
Lincoln Law School of San Jose						
Western Sierra Law School						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30.0</b>