

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Committee of Bar Examiners

The Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) is a standing committee of The State Bar of California and is composed of 19 members: 10 lawyers appointed by the Board of Trustees of The State Bar, three public members appointed by the Governor of California, three public members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and three public members appointed by the Senate Rules Committee. All members are appointed for four-year terms, and all are eligible for appointment by the Board of Trustees to one-year terms as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

The Committee is responsible for:

1. Determining the moral character of more than 8,000 applicants for admission to practice law in California per year;
2. The development, administration and grading of the California Bar Examination for approximately 14,000 applicants per year;
3. The development, administration and grading of the First-Year Law Students' Examination for more than 1,200 applicants per year; and,
4. The accreditation of 17 law schools in California that are not approved by the American Bar Association, of which there are 21 in California, and oversight of an additional 25 registered unaccredited law schools: which includes 7 correspondence law schools, 5 distance-learning law schools and 13 fixed-facility law schools.

The Committee operates through four subcommittees: Educational Standards, Examinations, Moral Character, and Operations and Management. The Committee generally meets six to eight times a year and during at least one of those meetings, a long-range planning session is held. Committee members contribute additional volunteer hours through participation in examination editing and grading calibration meetings, conducting informal conferences with moral character determination applicants, visiting bar examination test centers during administration of the examination, representing the Committee at Admissions Ceremonies for new admittees and participating in law school visitations.

Office of Admissions

The Office of Admissions provides staff support to the Committee. There are 60 permanent full-time positions, which are located in two offices: San Francisco and Los Angeles, allocated to the Office of Admissions to carry out the work of the Committee. The work of the employees in these positions is dedicated to performing the functions

assigned to the Committee. The Office is divided into a headquarters unit (Senior Director's Office) and five departments: Administration, Educational Standards, Examination Development, Operations and Management and Moral Character Determinations. It has an annual budget of more than 19 million dollars, which is funded primarily from applicant fees set by the State Bar's Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Committee. The Senior Director, Admissions, has the primary responsibility for oversight of the Office of Admissions, which includes supervision of the Admissions Directors.

All inquiries regarding the work and activities of the Committee should be directed to the attention of the Senior Director, Admissions, who is located in the San Francisco State Bar offices.