

## **PUBLIC MINUTES**

THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

OF

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

March 20, 2015

Marriott San Mateo  
1770 South Amphlett Boulevard  
San Mateo, California

A meeting of the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California convened in open session at 3:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2015, in a meeting room at the Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, California, Patricia P. White, Chair, presiding. Officers and members present were: Patricia P. White, Chair; Lee H. Wallach, Vice-Chair; Zeny M. Agullana, Traci C. Belmore, James A. Bolton, Ph.D., Michelle Domingo, Karen M. Goodman, Erika Hiramatsu, KV Kumar, Alexander Lawrence, Joel S. Miliband, Martha Pruden-Hamiter, Sandhya Ramadas, Sandra L. Salazar, M.D., Patricia M. Villalobos, and Alan S. Yochelson, Members. Members James H. Aguirre, Larry Sheingold, and Jeanne C. Vanderhoff were absent. State Bar staff members in attendance were Gayle E. Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions, Debra Murphy Lawson, Director for Moral Character Determinations, George C. Leal, Director for Educational Standards, Lisa Jeong Cummins, Director for Examinations, Greg S. Shin, Director for Operations and Management, Kim Wong, Administrative Specialist, and Rachel S. Grunberg, Senior Assistant General Counsel. Also in attendance were Professor Greg Brandes. The session went into closed session at 3:45 p.m., at which time Professor Brandes left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING PUBLIC MINUTES**

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the minutes taken during the public session of the meeting on January 30 and 31, 2015 be approved.

### **DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR ADMISSION CEREMONIES FOR SUCCESSFUL FEBRUARY 2015 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION APPLICANTS**

It was by common consent agreed that the following members represent the Committee at the designated Admissions Ceremonies, which will be conducted for the purpose of admitting applicants who are successful on the February 2015 California Bar Examination and who have met all other requirements for admission: Oakland Convention Center – Michelle Domingo, Sacramento – Karen Goodman, Fresno – Larry Sheingold, Los Angeles – Lee Wallach, Orange County – KV Kumar, Riverside – James Aguirre, San Diego – Erika Hiramatsu, and Ventura – Alan Yochelson.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF THE CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the prior decision of the Committee, effective at a yet to be determined date, to have the General Bar Examination constructed as follows: 1) One morning session consisting of three hours during which three, one-hour essay questions would be administered, 2) One afternoon session consisting of three and one-half hours during which two, one-hour essay questions and one, 90-minute Performance Test would be administered, 3) Morning and afternoon sessions consisting of three hours each, during which 100 multiple-choice items for each session would be administered (the MBE) and that during the grading process of the reconstructed examination the written and MBE portions of the examination be weighted equally, be affirmed; that an implementation plan, which should include the date of the first examination during which the reconstructed examination will be administered, be prepared by staff and submitted for review by the Committee in preparation for submission of the proposal to the Board of Trustees and consideration by the California Supreme Court.

### 2014 ANNUAL REPORT AND JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015 KEY INDICATORS

It was by common consent agreed that the 2014 Annual Report and January and February 2015 Key Indicators for the Office of Admissions/Committee of Bar Examiners be received and filed.

### SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 24 AND 25, 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING

It was by common consent agreed that the schedule for the April 24 and 25, 2015 Committee Meeting, which will be held at The State Bar of California Offices in San Francisco, California, be received and filed.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON EXAMINATIONS

#### SCOPE OF THE CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION

It was by common consent agreed that the report prepared on the history of the scope of the California Bar Examination by Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions and Lisa Jeong Cummins, Director for Examinations, be received and filed and that further information be gathered, including discussing the topic with the Law School Assembly and other stakeholders, and brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

#### 2014 – 2015 SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

It was by common consent agreed that the 2014 – 2015 goals for the Subcommittee on Examinations be received and filed.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

**ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN-EDUCATED LAW STUDENTS AND  
LLM PROGRAMS CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

It was by common consent agreed that the report on new LLM programs that are being held outside the United States by ABA-approved law schools, which, technically, meet the requirements to satisfy the foreign-educated applicant eligibility guidelines previously adopted by the Committee, be received and filed; and that if an LLM program meets the Guideline requirements with regard to content and other specifications, the country where the program is held or the manner in which it is conducted, i.e., online, is not grounds for disqualification.

**DECEMBER 31, 2014 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT**

It was by common consent agreed that the Financial Analysis Report as of December 31, 2014 for the Admissions Fund, be received and filed.

**2014 – 2015 SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS**

It was by common consent agreed that the 2014 – 2015 goals for the Subcommittee on Operations and Management be received and filed.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS**

**NOTICE OF CHANGES IN LAW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

It was by common consent agreed that the notices from Empire College of Law of the appointment of Jackie Michael Mullins as Dean and from American International School of Law of the appointment of Andy J. Szeto as Interim Dean, be received and filed.

**SUMMARIES OF DATA REPORTED IN THE 2014 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE  
REPORTS SUBMITTED BY CALIFORNIA UNACCREDITED LAW SCHOOLS**

It was by common consent agreed that the summaries of data reported in the 2014 annual compliance reports submitted by California Unaccredited law schools be received and filed.

**HUMPHREYS COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW – PERIODIC INSPECTION REPORT**

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the Periodic Inspection Report of Humphreys College Drivon School of Law, which visit was conducted November 5-8, 2013, by an Inspection Team that included James H. Aguirre, Committee member, Jay Frykberg, Interim Dean, University of West Los Angeles School of Law, and George Leal, Director for Educational Standards, be received and filed; that the response

submitted by Dean Patrick Piggott on behalf of the law school be received and filed; that the mandatory actions contained in the Report be adopted; that accreditation of the law school be continued; and that the next periodic accreditation inspection of the law school be scheduled for the spring of 2019, unless earlier visitation is found to be necessary by the Committee.

MONTEREY COLLEGE OF LAW/UNIVERSITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
SCHOOL OF LAW – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MAJOR CHANGE

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the major change request submitted by Monterey College of Law (MCL) and the University of San Luis Obispo School of Law (USLO) seeking approval of a proposed change of ownership of USLO due to its planned closure, and for MCL's acquisition of the assets of USLO, be received and filed; that is the request be granted; and that, pursuant to the request of MCL, a waiver of Guideline 5.8 of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rule*, which provides a six-unit limitation on the transfer of credit earned by students at an unaccredited law school who have not passed the First-Year Law Students' Examination, be granted.

PEOPLES COLLEGE OF LAW – PERIODIC INSPECTION REPORT

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the Interim Inspection Report of Peoples College of Law (PCL) conducted on November 12-13, 2014 by Joy Strayer, Educational Standards Consultant be received and filed; that the response submitted on behalf of the law school by Administrator Debra Miller be received and filed; that the recommended actions set out in the Report be adopted; that within 60 days of its receipt of the Report, PCL provide written confirmation that it has taken action on the recommended actions; that following receipt of confirmation from the school that the recommended actions have been taken, PCL's registration as a registered, fixed-facility law school be continued; and that a periodic inspection of PCL, pursuant to Rule 4.244(A), be conducted in the fall of 2019 unless an earlier inspection is found to be necessary by the Committee.

CALIFORNIA DESERT TRIAL ACADEMY COLLEGE OF LAW –  
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MAJOR CHANGE

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the Request of a Major Change submitted by the California Desert Trail Academy College of Law pursuant to Rule 4.245 of the *Unaccredited Law School Rules*, regarding the relocation of its classroom facility, be received and filed; and that the request be granted.

PINNACLES SCHOOL OF LAW – INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the Interim Inspection Report of Pinnacles School of Law (Report) conducted on October 15, 2015 be received and filed; that the recommended actions contained in the Report be adopted; that the school respond within 30 days of receipt of the report with written confirmation that it has taken action

on the recommended actions; that following receipt of the required confirmation from the school, registration of the school as a fixed-facility law school be continued; and the law school's periodic inspection be scheduled for the fall of 2017, unless an earlier inspection is deemed necessary by the Committee.

2014 – 2015 SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

It was by common consent agreed that the 2014 – 2015 goals for the Subcommittee on Educational Standards be received and filed.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MORAL CHARACTER**

2014 – 2015 SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

It was by common consent agreed that the 2014 – 2015 goals for the Subcommittee on Moral Character be received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all the business scheduled for consideration during the open and closed sessions of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2015.