

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF
THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

FAQS
ABOUT PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT COMMISSION MEETINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES
TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Questions

1. Will there be an opportunity to submit comments on the Commission's proposed rules?

The Commission welcomes comments on its work engaging in a comprehensive review and revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Multiple official public comment opportunities are anticipated. The Commission's work plan contemplates a study of the entire rules and the completion of an initial draft of comprehensive amendments by mid-2016. At that time, the Commission will seek authorization from a Board of Trustees Committee to solicit public comment. Written comment and at least one public hearing are anticipated for this formal public comment process. While this plan is subject to change, persons wishing to provide comments can look forward to reviewing the Commission's comprehensive recommendation for amended rules in mid-2016 that will be posted at the [State Bar's Public Comment webpage](#).

Written public comment may also be submitted informally to the Commission during the Commission's work. For example, the Commission's action to adopt a proposed amended rule at a meeting is action taken in open session. The text of an amended rule becomes a part of the Commission's public record action summary and is posted online at the Commission's webpage for review. Although posted, these drafts remain works-in-progress and might change prior to the anticipated comprehensive public comment opportunity in 2016. Nevertheless, persons who wish to provide public comment on such draft rules may submit their comments to:

Audrey Hollins
Office of Professional Competence, Planning and Development
State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639
Phone: 415-538-2167
E-mail: audrey.hollins@calbar.ca.gov

In addition to the foregoing opportunities for comment, the public may submit comments on any of the *current* Rules of Professional Conduct to be considered by the Commission. [An article in the California Bar Journal](#) describes this special opportunity to submit early input at the start of the Commission's study. The deadline to submit public comments on the *current* Rules is June 16, 2015. Comments may be submitted by using an [online form](#) (preferred) or in a "hard-copy" writing. For more information, visit:

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/AboutUs/PublicComment/201507.aspx>.

2. May members of the public attend the Commission's meetings?

Visitors are welcome to attend the Commission's open session meetings. Due to limited space in the State Bar's meeting rooms, visitors should provide advance notice of their plan to attend a meeting by contacting Lauren McCurdy by email at: lauren.mccurdy@calbar.ca.gov or by phone at: (415) 538-2107.

The Commission meeting agendas are posted online (see question #4 below). Meetings are held in both open and closed session. The meeting agenda will indicate which topics are planned for open session and those that will be handled in closed session. Most of the Commission's meetings will be open session. However, if the meeting goes into closed session, visitors will not be permitted to be present during that portion of the meeting.

The date, start time and location of a Commission meeting are found on the meeting notice and agenda for the particular meeting. At present, the meetings are planned for either the [San Francisco](#) or [Los Angeles](#) State Bar office.

3. Will visitors be allowed to address the Commission at meetings?

Time permitting, visitors will be permitted to briefly address the Commission at an open session meeting. However, visitors are strongly encouraged to submit written comments, particularly if any rule language is being proposed, in advance of a meeting so that the Commission members will have an adequate opportunity to understand and consider a visitor's concerns and recommendations. Due to the time constraints at open session meetings and potential number of visitors at any given meeting, the time allocated for a visitor to address the Commission will be set during the meeting at the discretion of the Commission Chair. A visitor typically should expect to be afforded at most five minutes in which to speak.

4. Are the Commission agenda materials available to the public?

The meeting agendas and materials for all meetings will be provided in electronic format, posted at the following Board of Trustees Meetings webpage: <http://board.calbar.ca.gov/>. The agenda and associated materials will be posted on the webpage no later than 10-days prior to the meeting date. The agenda materials can be found by "clicking" on the agenda item, which will open a window with a link to the agenda materials.

Please note that meeting agendas are posted for both open and closed sessions but agenda materials are posted only for open session agenda items.

Persons interested in the Commission's work are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the Board of Trustees Meeting Agendas Email List. By subscribing to this list you will receive email notices when the agendas for Commission meetings are posted. The email notices will direct you to the Board of Trustees Meetings webpage described above, where the agendas and agenda materials have been posted. The most up-to-date version of meeting agendas and materials can always be found on this page. Please note that when you subscribe to the Board's Email List, you will also receive email notices concerning meetings of the Board and other committees of the Board.

5. **The Commission's meeting agenda only lists the rules that will be discussed at that meeting. Will there be a schedule specifying the time each rule will be discussed?**

Given the varying complexity of agenda items and the need to afford the Commission flexibility in managing its limited meeting time, agenda items are not scheduled for any specific time. The meeting agenda and order of items are subject to change.

6. **May members of the press attend the Commission's meetings?**

Members of the press are welcome at Commission open session meetings. The State Bar has media relations representatives to assist members of the press who wish to attend Commission meetings. Press should contact:

Laura Ernde
Office of Communications
The State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-538-2283
E-mail: barcomm@calbar.ca.gov