



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 19, 2009
TO: Members, Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight Committee
FROM: Gayle Murphy
SUBJECT: REPORT REGARDING PENDING ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS AND OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Key Indicators

The Key Indicators for November and December 2008 and January 2009 for the Committee of Bar Examiners/Office of Admissions are attached as Appendix A.

Proposed *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*

As the Board Committee was advised during its November 2008 meeting, the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) is in the process of finalizing the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*. Attached as Appendix B is a chronology of the development and review of the proposed *Guidelines*. Attached for your information as Appendix C is a copy of the current version of the proposed *Guidelines* that was recently circulated for public comment and attached as Appendix D is a summary of the changes that have been made since the original proposed version was circulated. During the course of this project, the Committee authorized the preparation of a tracking study (attached as Appendix E), which explored the eventual bar examination passing rates for unaccredited and accredited law schools, which you might find of interest.

The public comment period for the most recent version of the proposed *Guidelines* has now concluded. The Committee has the authority to adopt the *Guidelines* on its own under the provisions of Title 4, Division 2, Rule 4.103 of the *Rules of the State Bar of California (Accredited Law School Rules)*, which states:

Rule 4.103 Interpreting and applying the rules

The Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules, as adopted by the Committee of Bar Examiners, govern the interpretation and application of these rules. The Committee has the authority to amend the guidelines, subject to a reasonable comment period and after consideration of any comments received.

After review of the comments received relative to the most current version, staff will prepare a final version of the proposed *Guidelines* for consideration by the Committee during its March 20, 2009 meeting. During that meeting and after review of all the comments that were submitted, the Committee will consider whether the new *Guidelines* should be adopted, and if so, when they will be implemented and whether any transition policies need to be adopted.

The next project involving the California Accredited Law Schools is to update the library content requirements. The Committee expects to convene several meetings with interested parties, which will include invitations to law school deans and librarians to participate, in preparation for production of proposed revisions to the current requirements.

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Attachments