



# THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS  
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 30, 2009

**TO:** Board Committee on Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight

**FROM:** Gayle Murphy, Senior Executive, Admissions

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO ADMISSION RULES – REQUEST TO CIRCULATE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

### Executive Summary

Last year, the rules regulating the admissions process were revised to conform to the State Bar of California's new rules language standards and are now titled: Title 4, Division 1. Admission to Practice Law of the *Rules of the State Bar of California (Admissions Rules)*. In the conversion to plain English, it has been discovered that a few key components were either left out or not clearly stated. Amendments that are primarily administrative in nature were approved in principle by the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE), subject to a public comment period and final adoption and approval by the Board of Governors. The CBE seeks the Board Committee's approval to circulate the proposed revised version for a 30-day public comment period.

### Subject/Issue

Whether the proposed amendments to the *Admissions Rules* should be circulated for a 30-day public comment period.

### Background/Summary of Proposal

In response to the State Bar of California's project to revise all its rules to conform them to certain standards and translate them into "plain English," a new version of the rules regulating the admission process were adopted by the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) and approved by the Board of Governors. Since their implementation last year, it has been discovered that a few key components were either left out or not clearly stated. Proposed amendments, which are administrative in nature and do not substantially change the original intent, are attached as "Attachment A." The proposed amendments to the *Admissions Rules* were approved in principle by the CBE for the purpose of circulating them for an abbreviated public comment period, with the Board Committee's consent.

### **Length of Public Comment Period**

Since there are no substantive changes included in the proposed amendments, these proposed rules should be circulated for a 30-day public comment period.

### **Effective Date of Proposal**

The new version of the admission rules would become effective immediately following approval by the Board of Governors.

### **Fiscal and Personnel Impact**

None.

### **Board Committee Recommendation and Proposed Resolution**

The CBE recommends the Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight Committee authorize the circulation of the proposed amendments to the *Admissions Rules* for a 30-day public comment period. If the Board Committee agrees, adoption of the following resolution would be appropriate:

**RESOLVED**, that the Regulation, Admissions and Discipline Oversight Committee authorizes staff to make available for public comment the proposed amendments to the Title 4, Division 1. Admission to Practice Law rules for a 30-day public comment period; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this authorization for release for public comment is not, and shall not be construed as, a statement or recommendation of approval of the proposed item.