

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Hybrid (Teams & In-Person)
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. (EDT). Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Kevin Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera, Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Maura Horan, Karen L. Karpie, Gail E. McTaggart, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Timothy P. Pothin, Robert D. Silva, Alix Simonetti, Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.), Frederic S. Ury, Abby Warren, and Matt Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; and Starr Carroll, Program Manager.

The Chair announced the results of the July 2023 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 213 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 266 as having passed the July 2023 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to deem those 164 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 266 as having failed to pass the July 2023 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2023 Connecticut bar examination and who had complied with the rules and regulations governing admission to the bar of the State of Connecticut be recommended to the judges of the Superior Court for admission to the bar, unless further evidence warrants review pursuant to Article VI of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee Regulations. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously that the 2 applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2023 Connecticut bar examination, but whose application disclosed issues concerning good character or fitness, be reviewed further pursuant to Article VI of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee Regulations.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Mr. Ury, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2023.

The Chair reminded the committee that there will be a Special Meeting on October 4, 2023 via Zoom for a presentation on the NextGen Bar Exam by representatives from the National Conference of Bar Examiners. She urged members to review the material that was circulated by staff, to bring questions and concerns for discussion, and to be prepared to discuss possible adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam. Discussion was had concerning whether the exam would be administered entirely on computer and whether adoption would impact current contracts, such as the exam site and laptop testing.

The Committee discussed a new petition by Concord Law School (CLS) for approval pursuant to Article II-1 of the CBEC Regulations. Approval would allow CLS graduates to sit for the bar exam in Connecticut. Discussion was had regarding the previous petition filed by CLS that was denied by split vote (7 to 9) on February 16, 2018, the fact that CLS is only approved in California, that many graduate programs are now fully online, that

Massachusetts School of Law is approved and it has a 0% pass rate for the most recent exam, that there likely have been improvements to the program offered by CLS since the last petition was considered, and that a presentation from CLS would be helpful in assessing the current petition. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, a majority voted in favor of inviting the CLS Dean to make a presentation to the committee in support of its request for approval.

As a follow-up from the April 21, 2023 meeting, the Deputy Director presented different options for possible amendments to Article IV of the CBEC Regulations governing the MPRE requirement. Discussion was had regarding the various options, the purpose behind this requirement, and enforcement of the regulation. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Gross, seconded by the Chair, it was voted unanimously to amend Article IV to delete the time requirement (as set forth in Option 2), to accept verification from other jurisdictions, and to update the relevant application, forms, and website accordingly.

At 11:12 a.m., Judge Elgo left the meeting.

Thereafter, the Deputy Director summarized how Authorized House Counsel applications have been handled in connection with the process of providing updated information as set forth in Articles IX-2 and IX-3 of the CBEC Regulations. It was requested that the Committee endorse an internal policy that these regulations apply to Authorized House Counsel applications going forward for consistency and fairness. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wax-Krell, seconded by the Chair, it was voted unanimously to apply Articles IX-2 and IX-3 to Authorized House Counsel applications going forward.

The Director provided a report for the upcoming February 2024 bar examination, which will be held on February 27 and 28, 2024. The filing period will be from October 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023.

Finally, the Committee discussed the pass/fail rate for the July 2023 bar exam and noted that it is lower than other recent July bar exams.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Connors, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 11:17 a.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN L. KARPIE
Secretary