

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
JANUARY 31, 2025

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Michael Connelly, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Maura Horan, David A. Moraghan, Alix Simonetti, Frederic S. Ury, and Hon. Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; Starr Evans, Program Manager; and three (3) members of the public were present.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge Elgo, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2024.

The Treasurer, Judge Wax-Krell, presented a comparison of the Committee's income and expenses from the current fiscal year to the previous fiscal year for the First Quarter (July – September 2024) and Second Quarter (October – December 2024).

At 10:07 a.m., members Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.) and Gail E. McTaggart arrived.

The Director provided a report on a proposed amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee and the local law schools of University of Connecticut, Quinnipiac University, and Western New England University. The schools have proposed an amendment to the MOU to include the total UBE scores for their graduates, in addition to the statistical and score information already provided. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to accept the proposed change as drafted by Director Valko.

At 10:12 a.m., member Abby M. Warren arrived.

The Director provided a report on a proposed amendment to the admission application question regarding citizenship. A member of the public proposed amending the question to impose the same documentation requirements on all applicants regardless of citizenship. Discussion was had concerning Practice Book § 2-8 (1) and what, if any, documentation should be required from applicants.

At 10:26 a.m., a member of the public left the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Judge Elgo, seconded by the Chair, it was voted unanimously to change the admission application question regarding citizenship and to not automatically require submission of documentation from any applicant. The question is changed to the following:

CT Practice Book § 2-8 (1) requires that applicants for admission to the bar must be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully residing in the United States, which shall include an individual authorized to work lawfully in the United States.

Are you a citizen of the United States? If yes – inquiry ends

If no – Are you lawfully residing in the United States?

Yes or No – Describe your immigration status. Include visa type if applicable and expiration date.

At 10:34 a.m., member Hon. Amir Shaikh arrived.

The Director provided a report on proposed regulation amendments to Article II-3. There are two (2) parts to this proposal. The first part pertains to Article II-3 (C) & (D), and the proposed change is to help clarify that a qualifying LL.M. degree is required of all applicants applying under this regulation, and to modify the course description requirement. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Escalera, it was voted unanimously to approve this amendment.

The second part of the proposed regulation amendment pertains to Article II-3 (B) (1) & (2) as they relate to in-person or remote coursework. Discussion was had regarding the practical implications of these provisions since Covid-19 and the prevalence of remote coursework. The consensus was that a subcommittee will be formed to review this matter and report back to the full committee with recommendations.

The Deputy Director provided a report on proposed regulation amendments to Articles I, V, VI, IX, and X. The proposed changes include updates to reflect the new online application process, including removal of the requirement to provide certain notices by certified mail, and to remove the requirement for extensions of time to be received at least 30-days before a deadline. Upon motion duly made by Judge Elgo, seconded by Ms. McTaggart, it was voted unanimously to approve the amendments. It was further instructed that staff will add a notice to the applicant portal homepage to inform applicants that important notices will be posted to their online accounts and remind them of their duty to review such notices.

At 10:59 a.m., two members of the public left the meeting.

The Director provided a report for the upcoming February 2025 bar examination, which will be held on February 25 and 26, 2025. There were 197 applications filed, 10 have since withdrawn and 187 are currently pending, and 19 examinees are scheduled to receive nonstandard testing accommodations. Additionally, 166 of the candidates registered to use their laptops on the written portion of the exam.

The Director presented updates regarding: (1) law school admission numbers for the local law schools; and (2) information regarding the number of applicants transferring a UBE



score for admission to Connecticut who failed the UBE in the jurisdiction in which it was administered.

The Director provided an update on the NextGen bar examination regarding the adoption by other jurisdictions, the administration of the prototype examination in October and our graders participating in the grading process, and the potential need for a subcommittee to make recommendations on necessary regulation changes.

The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miguel A. Escalera Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.  
Secretary

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