

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 3, 2025

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Campbell D. Barrett, Justin Blain, Kevin C. Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Maura Horan, Robert D. Silva, Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.), Frederic S. Ury, Abby M. Warren, and Hon. Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; and Starr Evans, Program Manager.

The Chair announced the results of the July 2025 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, it was voted unanimously to deem those 259 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 266 as having passed the July 2025 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, it was voted unanimously to deem those 189 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 266 as having failed to pass the July 2025 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2025 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 Mr. Ury, it voted unanimously that the twelve (12) applicants who had obtained a passing score on the July 2025 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.

At 10:02 a.m., member Michael Connelly joined the meeting.

The Chair reported participation by the Director, Judge Elgo, and the Chair in quarterly meetings with the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and other jurisdictions first administering the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination in July 2026. Additionally, the Chair thanked members sitting on formal hearing panels for their service.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2025, with Mr. Connors and Judge Elgo abstaining.

The Chair addressed the additional documentation submitted by the Massachusetts School of Law in support of its request for re-approval for an additional period under Article II of the CBEC Regulations. Discussion was had regarding the overall pass rate for the last 10 years – Connecticut 10% and Massachusetts 25% – as well as the 1st time taker overall pass rate for the last 10 years – Connecticut 20% and Massachusetts 45%, the overall cost of tuition and expenses, the initial purpose or goal of the law school, the law

school's efforts to support its students and improve the pass rate, and the value in continuing to offer its students the opportunity to sit for the bar exam and pursue admission in Connecticut. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Mr. Connors, a majority voted to grant approval for an additional period of three (3) years by a vote of 14 to 2 with Mr. Gavin and Mr. Gross voting against.

The Director presented a request from UCONN Law School that online or remote courses be allowed for LLM degrees under Article II-3 of the CBEC Regulations in connection with petitions for determination on foreign education. The subcommittee discussed the request, did not make a recommendation, and requested additional information about the process utilized in other jurisdictions. A motion was made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, to approve the request to allow online or remote courses for LLM degrees in connection with petitions for determination on foreign education. Discussion was had regarding faculty teaching online or remote courses, the course descriptions of online or remote courses as compared to in-person or on campus courses, the requirement that candidates come to Connecticut to sit for the exam, the requirement that candidates establish current lawful residence in the United States before admission, and the desire to hear from an absent subcommittee member about their position on the issues. The Chair withdrew the motion. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, a majority voted to table the matter until the next regular meeting by a vote of 15 to 1 with Mr. Escalera voting against.

The Director presented data from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) regarding the recommended passing score range for the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge Elgo, it was voted unanimously to set a passing score of 616 in Connecticut beginning with the first administration of the NextGen UBE in July 2026. Additionally, the Director presented regulation amendments to implement the adoption of the NextGen UBE beginning in July 2026 and to increase fees for admission by examination, by UBE score transfer, and for authorized house counsel certification. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Escalera, it was voted unanimously to adopt the regulation amendments including the fee increases.

At 10:55 a.m., members Mr. Barrett and Ms. Warren left the meeting.

The Director reviewed the limitations and priorities set by the Committee at its last meeting for the filing of applications to sit for the July 2026 examination. At that time, it was determined that the filing fee would be the same for all applications and would be determined at a later date. Given that the Committee voted earlier in the meeting to increase the initial filing fee for admission by examination to \$900, the Director proposed that this be the filing fee for all applications filed in connection with the July 2026 bar exam. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, it was voted unanimously to set the July 2026 filing fee for all applications at \$900.

The Director provided a report on the use of Yondr pouches at the July 2025 bar exam, noting that overall it went well in that the product was easy to use and applicants appeared grateful that the option of using a pouch was offered at the exam site. Lastly, the Director

provided a report on the upcoming February 2026 bar exam, noting that the filing period recently opened, that the exam will be administered on February 24 & 25, 2026, and that it will be the final Legacy UBE administered in Connecticut.

The Chair thereafter adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.
Secretary

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