

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
APRIL 25, 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., Kevin C. Connors, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Goss, Maura Horan, Gail E. McTaggart, Denise Martino Phelan, Hon. Amir Shaikh, Robert D. Silva, Alix Simonetti, Frederic S. Ury, 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 February 2025 bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge Wax-Krell, it was voted unanimously to deem those 57 applicants who had obtained a passing score of 266 as having passed the February 2025 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to deem those 112 applicants who had failed to obtain a passing score of 266 as having failed to pass the February 2025 Connecticut bar examination. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Connors, it was voted unanimously that those applicants who had obtained a passing score on the February 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 was voted unanimously that the one (1) applicant who had obtained a passing score on the February 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.

The Chair reported that the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) is holding quarterly meetings for the jurisdictions first administering the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination in July 2026, which the Chair, Judge Nina Elgo, and the Director regularly attend.

At 10:05 a.m., members Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.) and Abby Warren joined the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of January 31, 2025, with Mr. Connors abstaining.

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 Third Quarter (January – March).

The Director reported on a request from Cooley Law School for specific score information for its graduates who take the bar examination in Connecticut. It was noted that the CBEC

does not provide confidential applicant score information to law schools, other than to the three local law schools pursuant to existing MOUs. It would be too burdensome for the CBEC to maintain MOUs and provide score data to all 200+ law schools that may have graduates sit for the CT bar examination, and schools can obtain this information directly from its graduates. Further, schools will continue to receive the pass/fail and number of times sat information after each exam. The consensus was that the Director respond and deny the request from Cooley Law School to provide additional score information.

The Director provided the following updates on the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination: (1) The NCBE has switched tech vendors from Surpass to Internet Testing Systems (ITS); (2) every jurisdiction must now have Wi-Fi available at the examination sites; and (3) the official name for this examination is the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination. The existing UBE exam will be called the Legacy Uniform Bar Examination.

At 10:18 a.m., member Michael Connelly joined the meeting, and Judge Solomon left the meeting.

The Director discussed the issue of transferability of UBE scores between the Legacy and NextGen exams and whether the CBEC will continue to accept transferred Legacy UBE scores after the administration of the NextGen exam. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously that Legacy UBE scores will be fully transferable for admission in Connecticut until 2033, five years after the date of the last administration of the Legacy UBE in any jurisdiction.

At 10:29 a.m., member Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.) joined the meeting.

The Director discussed the implementation of a cap on the number of applications that will be accepted for the July 2026 bar examination. Discussion was had regarding issues such as space constraints and Wi-Fi capabilities at the examination site, CBEC resources like staff, proctors, and graders, and setting preferences for acceptance of applications. The consensus was to place this issue on the agenda for the next regular CBEC meeting.

The Director reported on the NextGen UBE grading policy. The NCBE has established the practice of double grading for the NextGen UBE, which involves every written answer being graded by two different graders. This method eliminates the need to complete regrading after the calculation of initial scores. It is preferred over the existing regrading process because all examinations will be graded by two graders, instead of just a portion of the examinations. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Ms. McTaggart, it was voted unanimously to adopt the NCBE double grading practice and to discontinue the current regrading practice beginning with the administration of the NextGen UBE in July 2026.

At 11:10 a.m., member Maura Horan left the meeting.

The Director provided a report on the upcoming July 2025 bar exam, noting that 291 applications have been received to date and that the final filing deadline is Wednesday,

April 30, 2025. The filing deadline for applicants that were unsuccessful on the February 2025 bar exam is Friday, May 16, 2025. The exam will take place on July 29 & 30, 2025.

The Chair informed members that Howard "Howie" Emond, former Deputy Director, Attorney Services, recently passed away. He was remembered fondly and thanked for his years of service.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.
Secretary

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