

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
JULY 11, 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, Michael Connelly, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Eric M. Gross, Gail E. McTaggart, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Robert D. Silva, and Hon. Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; and Starr Evans, Program Manager.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was voted unanimously accept and record, without amendment or correction, the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2025. Mr. Moraghan abstained.

At 10:03 a.m., members Maura Horan, Hon. Amir Shaikh, and Alix Simonetti joined the meeting.

Judge Wax-Krell presented the fourth quarterly financial report and comparison; the projected versus actual budget for fiscal year 2024-2025; and the projected budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Discussion was had regarding the income and expenses being largely consistent with the prior fiscal year, with the main difference in both income and expenses being an overall increase in the number of applications.

The Chair addressed the 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. A motion was made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, to grant approval for an additional period of three (3) years. Discussion was had regarding several concerns with the current submission, including the ongoing low pass rates on the bar examination and the need for clarification on certain data and statistics. The Chair withdrew the motion. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Moraghan, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to table the decision and request more information from the school.

The Deputy Director and Mr. Escalera presented the report of the Criminal Disclosures Subcommittee. The subcommittee made recommendations to amend questions on the bar examination application, and the corresponding questions on the other types of bar admission applications to: (1) add a preamble to questions 33 and 34; (2) remove certain language from subsection 6 of question 33; (3) add a preamble to the Criminal and Motor Vehicle Proceedings section before question 42; and (4) combine questions 42-44 into one new question 42. Discussion was had regarding the changes, and it was noted that the new proposed question 42 does not capture disclosure of a criminal protective order or a family violence temporary restraining order as it does in the current application, and that this should be added to the new proposed question. It was further suggested that the first sentence in the new preamble to question 42 be amended to say “current” character and fitness. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted

unanimously to approve the amendments to the application questions as drafted, subject to the changes noted during discussion.

The Director presented a proposal for the use of Yondr pouches during the bar examination. This would allow examinees to bring a cell phone to the exam site, which is then turned off and securely stored in the pouch making it inaccessible during the examination. Discussion was had regarding the benefits and cost. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Escalera, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of Yondr pouches for the July 2025 and February 2026 bar examinations and to reassess use of the pouches for any future examinations.

The Director presented a proposed amendment to Article III of the CBEC Regulations. The new proposed subsection states:

Art. III-1 (D). After four (4) unsuccessful attempts on the Connecticut bar examination, an applicant may file an application only for the February administration of the bar examination.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to approve the amendment as drafted. Mr. Moraghan abstained.

The Director presented a proposed limitation on the number of applications to be accepted for the July 2026 administration of the NextGen UBE examination, along with prioritization of groups of applications. The limitation and prioritization of applications is necessary due to existing constraints on the administration of the bar examination in conjunction with the unknown nature of the applications that will be submitted for the July 2026 examination. The proposal is to:

- (1) Accept no more than 600 total applications for the July 2026 examination;
- (2) Accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis from the following groups in order of priority:
 - a. Applicants taking a bar examination for the first time in any U.S. jurisdiction;
 - b. Applicants who were unsuccessful on the July 2025 or February 2026 Legacy UBE in Connecticut;
 - c. All other applicants.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to approve the limitations and priorities as drafted for the July 2026 examination, with the application filing fee to be the same for all applications and determined at a later date.

At 11:31 a.m., Mr. Silva and Judge Wax-Krell left the meeting.

The Director provided a draft of proposed regulation amendments that will need to be made for the administration of the NextGen UBE examination. Additional necessary information will be obtained in the coming months and regulation amendments will be adopted at a future CBEC meeting.

At 11:40 a.m., Judge Shaikh left the meeting.

The Director provided an update on recent information concerning the NextGen UBE bar examination. It was noted that applicants with testing accommodations will no longer be tested at testing centers as was being proposed. Instead, jurisdictions will continue to be responsible for testing these examinees as they do currently.

The Director provided a report on the upcoming July 2025 bar examination, scheduled for July 29 and 30, 2025 at the Convention Center and Hartford Marriott. There were 492 total applications received with 482 currently pending. There are 31 examinees scheduled to receive nonstandard testing accommodations. There are 444 applicants registered to use laptops for the written portion of the exam, and 38 handwriters.

The Director presented updated 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 Chair adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.
Secretary