

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
JANUARY 26, 2024

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. (EST). Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Kevin C. Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Maura Horan, Karen L. Karpie, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Hon. Amir Shaikh, Alix Simonetti, Frederic S. Ury, and Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director, CBEC; Starr Carroll, Program Manager; and Martin Pritikin, Dean of Purdue Global Law School (Concord Law School).

The Chair indicated that the NCBE Annual Meeting is coming up, to be held on May 2-5, 2024, in which three committee members and staff will attend.

The Treasurer, Mr. 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 2023) and Second Quarter (October – December 2023).

At 10:07 a.m., member Martha Triplett arrived.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gavin, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of September 29, 2023. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Special Meeting of October 4, 2023. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Gavin, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Special Meeting of October 30, 2023.

Judge Elgo presented the report of the nominations subcommittee. It was noted that the current Secretary, Ms. Karpie, will not seek reappointment to the CBEC at the expiration of her current term later this year. The recommendation of the subcommittee is that the current Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer be nominated to continue in their positions, and that member Miguel A. Escalera, Jr. be nominated to serve as Secretary. Upon motion duly made by Judge Elgo, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to elect the following persons to serve as officers of the Committee for three years or until their successors are elected:

Chair:	Hon. Anne C. Dranginis
Vice-Chair:	Denise Martino Phelan
Treasurer:	Matthew Wax-Krell
Secretary:	Miguel A. Escalera Jr.

At 10:28 a.m., member Timothy P. Pothin arrived. At 11:08 a.m., Mr. Gavin left the meeting.

Dean Pritikin addressed the Committee regarding the pending petition for approval of Purdue Global Law School (PGLS) under Article II-1 (B) of the CBEC Regulations. Dean Pritikin highlighted a number of changes, improvements, and accomplishments of the school since the Committee's prior review in 2018. He discussed the recent ABA approval of three fully-online JD programs, and recent ABA proposed Standards and Rules changes that would allow fully-online law schools to apply for ABA accreditation. Dean Pritikin also addressed the affordability and accessibility of the PGLS program and bar examination pass rates. Discussion was had concerning the need for additional review under Article II-1 (B), and it was noted that an approval under this regulation is nonretroactive and would not apply to graduates prior to approval. The consensus was that further consideration was warranted and that a subcommittee be formed to present a recommendation to the full Committee.

At 11:21 a.m., Dean Pritikin left the meeting. At 11:34 a.m., Mr. Gross left the meeting.

The Director presented information on the NextGen bar examination regarding the adoption by other jurisdictions, transferability of scores, and the potential use of testing centers. Discussion was had concerning the date of first administration of the NextGen examination in Connecticut. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ury, seconded by Mr. Moraghan, a majority voted in favor of administering the NextGen examination beginning in July 2026 by a vote of 11 to 4 with Ms. Karpie, Ms. Phelan, Ms. Simonetti, and Ms. Triplett voting against.

The Director provided a report for the upcoming February 2024 bar examination, which will be held on February 27 and 28, 2024. There are currently 211 applications pending, and there are 14 examinees scheduled to receive nonstandard testing accommodations. Additionally, 90% of candidates registered to use their laptops on the written portion of the exam, which is consistent with past exams.

The Director thereafter 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.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 11:59 a.m. (EST) and to reconvene in the non-public portion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Miguel A. Escalera Jr.

MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.
Secretary