

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via TEAMS  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
JANUARY 30, 2026

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., Justin Blain, Michael Connelly, Kevin C. Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Miguel A. Escalera Jr., Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Gail E. McTaggart, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Robert D. Silva, Alix Simonetti, Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.), Frederic S. Ury, and Abby M. Warren. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Lisa Valko, Director; Starr Evans, Program Manager; and two (2) members of the public, Peter Lindseth and Yan Hong were present.

The Chair reported that member Kevin C. Connors submitted his resignation from the CBEC. She thanked him for his 20 years of dedicated service on the committee. The Chair further reported on the upcoming NCBE Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA, and encouraged members to let the Director know if they are interested in attending.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Connors, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2025. Ms. McTaggart, Mr. Moraghan, and Ms. Simonetti abstained.

The Director 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 2025) and Second Quarter (October – December 2025).

The Chair invited UConn Law Professors Peter Lindseth and Yan Hong to discuss the pending request from UConn Law School to amend Article II-3 of the CBEC Regulations to allow online or remote courses for LL.M. degrees for applicants with a foreign legal education. Mr. Lindseth and Ms. Hong presented information and answered questions about the UConn Law LL.M. programs with particular focus on the Executive LL.M. program that is offered remotely in partnership with a university in Seoul, South Korea. Discussion was had regarding potential benefits and drawbacks of online learning and how those factors relate to applicants with a foreign legal education. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ury, a majority voted to amend Article II-3 of the CBEC Regulations to allow online courses for LL.M. degrees with no limit on how many credits may be earned in online courses, by a vote of 10 to 7 with Mr. Baribeault, Mr. Gavin, Mr. Gross, Ms. Phelan, Ms. Simonetti, Judge Solomon, and Ms. Warren voting against. Specific revisions to Article II-3 will be proposed at the next regular meeting.

At 11:36 a.m., Mr. Gavin, Ms. Hong, and Mr. Lindseth left the meeting.

The Deputy Director reported on a proposal by the Connecticut Bar Association to amend rule 5.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The proposal would permit attorneys to practice in Connecticut pending admission, provided that the attorney applies for admission within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed six months, after first

engaging in practice in Connecticut. The Rules Committee has requested that the CBEC submit any comments on the proposal prior to the February 9, 2026, Rules Committee meeting. During discussion it was noted that CBEC staff have observed several ongoing issues with the temporary practice provisions in Rule 5.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and that it would be beneficial to discuss a proposal to amend several related rules with the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel (OCDC) and the Statewide Grievance Committee (SGC). Upon motion duly made by Ms. McTaggart, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to request that the Rules Committee table the matter to allow CBEC staff to work with OCDC and SGC to craft a comprehensive proposal addressing the issues raised by the CBA.

The Director presented proposed changes to the non-standard testing forms. The changes relate to the NextGen bar examination to first be administered in July 2026. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes to the non-standard testing forms.

The Director presented a report on the use of Yondr pouches during the bar examination. The secure cell phone pouches were successfully used during the July 2025 exam with no reported issues or concerns. Discussion was had regarding the cost and the percentage of applicants that used the pouches. The consensus among members was that CBEC staff will contact the Purchasing Services office to begin the procurement process to continue offering secure cell phone pouches for future bar examinations.

The Director addressed the petition submitted by St. Francis School of Law for approval under Article II-1 (B) of the CBEC Regulations. Discussion was had regarding several concerns with the submission and a general consensus that the petition did not sufficiently demonstrate the ability of the law school to educate and prepare competent lawyers for admission to the Connecticut bar. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Connors, it was voted unanimously to deny the petition for approval of St. Francis Law School.

The Director provided an update on the NextGen bar examination regarding the administration of the beta test in January, Connecticut graders participating in the beta test grading process, and the recent announcement from New York regarding its acceptance of transferred NextGen UBE scores.

At 12:18 p.m., Judge Elgo left the meeting.

The Director provided an update on the February 2026 bar examination, which will be held on February 24 and 25, 2026. There were 277 applications filed, with 265 currently pending and 24 examinees scheduled to receive nonstandard testing accommodations. There are 42 pending applications from Purdue Global Law School graduates.

The Deputy Director presented a letter from the DOJ regarding the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) that was sent to state bar and court systems that issue licenses to practice law. The letter states that professional license portability under the SCRA now includes licenses to practice law, and it details several restrictions on state bar and court

systems regarding the issuance of law licenses to servicemembers and their spouses. The Deputy Director indicated that we will send this letter to the Legal Services office for a legal opinion and reiterated that the CBEC already has a Military Spouse Temporary Licensing application.

The Director presented updates regarding: (1) law school admission numbers for the local law schools; (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; and (3) the staffing level and the increase of work in the CBEC administrative office. The Chair has approved an additional administrative staff position due to the continued increase in the number and complexity of bar admissions applications and the changes in workflow resulting from an online application system.

The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MIGUEL A. ESCALERA JR.

Secretary