

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – Conducted via ZOOM
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
JULY 31, 2020

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. (EDT). Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., Kevin C. Connors, Hon. Nina Elgo, Edward J. Gavin, Eric M. Gross, Karen L. Karpie, Hon. C. Ian McLachlan (Ret.), Gail E. McTaggart, David A. Moraghan, Denise Martino Phelan, Perry Zinn Rowthorn, Amir Shaikh, Alix Simonetti, Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.), Fred Ury, Abby M. Warren, and Matthew Wax-Krell. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Jessica F. Kallipolites, Administrative Director; and Lisa Valko, Program Manager.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to accept and record the minutes of the public session of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2020.

The Chair addressed the upcoming October 2020 Connecticut remote bar examination to be held on October 5 and 6, 2020, by providing a summary of events leading to the decision to offer the remote bar examination in lieu of an in-person examination and discussed the ways in which the Committee and Administrative Office are continuously working to ensure a successful administration of the remote examination. The Chair announced that New York will also be administering the remote bar examination on October 5 and 6, and that Connecticut has entered into reciprocity agreements with the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and Tennessee for the portability of scores from the October 5 and 6 remote bar examination, and that the Committee will continue to seek reciprocity with other jurisdictions administering the same examination. The Chair and Mr. Rowthorn raised the issue that under Section 2-5 of the Rules of the Superior Court, the Committee has the duty to provide for the examination of candidates for admission to the bar, does not have the authority to waive the bar examination, and to grant admission by means such as diploma privilege would necessitate action from the Rules Committee of the Superior Court.

The Chair opened the meeting to public comment concerning diploma privilege for a period of forty-five (45) minutes. The Committee heard comment from one (1) law school dean, seven (7) law school professors, and the Chief Disciplinary Counsel. The Chair allowed additional time for public comment in order to hear from six (6) law school graduates that requested an opportunity to speak.

Discussion was had regarding the Committee's duty and obligation to protect the public, various hardships and technical disparities faced by applicants, and ways in which the Connecticut Bar Association and local law firms may be able to assist in addressing those concerns, as the local law schools indicated that they cannot provide assistance to those students in need. It was the consensus of the Committee that it will not recommend the adoption of diploma privilege to the Rules Committee and that it will continue with plans to administer the October 5 and 6 remote bar examination.

The Administrative Director indicated that the Committee will need to prepare a report to the Rules Committee this fall with information concerning withdrawn applications relating to the amendments made to Article III-3 of the CBEC Regulations that were adopted following the October 15, 2018, Rules Committee meeting.

The Program Manager 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 Administrative Director presented information concerning the current paper-based application process, the urgent need to convert to an online application and applicant portal, and the need to go out to bid in order to build an online application. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Wax-Krell, it was voted unanimously to go out to bid to obtain an online application and applicant portal.

Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Phelan, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 12:01 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN L. KARPIE
Secretary