



Supreme Court of California

JORGE E. NAVARRETE
CLERK AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF THE SUPREME COURT

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October 26, 2020

SENT VIA USPS AND EMAIL

Donna S. Hershkowitz, Interim Executive Director
State Bar of California, Board of Trustees
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
donna.hershkowitz@calbar.ca.gov

RE: Blue Ribbon Commission

Dear Ms. Hershkowitz,

The court is pleased to adopt, with minor changes, the State Bar Board of Trustees' proposed charter and composition of the joint Supreme Court/State Bar Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Examination. Upon its creation, the commission will be charged with developing recommendations for the court concerning any appropriate changes to ensure that the California Bar Examination, or some variation thereof, optimally evaluates the minimum competence to practice law.

Concerning the commission's charge, the court amends the charge to read as follows (revisions are underscored):

"The Joint Supreme Court/State Bar Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam is charged with developing recommendations concerning whether and what changes to make to the California Bar Exam, and whether to adopt alternative or additional testing or tools to ensure minimum competence to practice law."

The commission should also be mindful of any useful information that can be gleaned from California's experience with the temporary provisional licensure program to the extent it is relevant to the commission's charge.

Concerning the nominations of members to the commission, the court amends the proposal to read: "Law School Deans or faculty (2)"

In addition, given the recent experience with the first ever online, remote administration of the California Bar Examination, the court believes that the proposed commission, as part of its charter to explore "the testing format and design of the exam," should expressly consider whether the examination, including any of its subparts, should be administered online and/or in-person.

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To that end, the court has determined that the commission's membership should also include an individual with appropriate technological expertise to evaluate the capability of any online testing software and any security and privacy issues that may be associated with the use of such software.

With these additions in mind, the court will remain ready to consider candidates for appointment to the proposed commission.

Sincerely,



JORGE E. NAVARRETE
Clerk and
Executive Officer of the Supreme Court

cc: Sean SeLegue, Chair, State Bar Board of Trustees
Ruben Duran, Vice-Chair, State Bar Board of Trustees
Sunil Gupta, Principal Attorney to the Chief Justice of California