

CONNECTICUT BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING – Conducted via ZOOM
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
JULY 23, 2020

The Chair, Hon. Anne C. Dranginis (Ret.), called the public portion of the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. (EDT). Present were Raymond L. Baribeault, Jr., 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, Robert D. Silva, Alix Simonetti, Hon. Elliot Solomon (Ret.), Fred Ury, Abby M. Warren, Matthew Wax-Krell, and Perry Zinn Rowthorn. Present by invitation were: Kathleen B. Harrington, Deputy Director, Attorney Services; Jessica F. Kallipolites, Administrative Director; and Lisa Valko, Program Manager.

The Chair addressed the upcoming Fall 2020 Connecticut bar examination on September 30 and October 1, 2020 and concerns about holding an in person examination during the ongoing pandemic. Discussion was had regarding a recent meeting with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the limitations on large gatherings and the challenges of administering an in person examination while providing adequate safety measures for applicants and proctors. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Wax-Krell, it was voted unanimously to administer the fall examination remotely as offered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners on October 5 and 6, 2020 in lieu of the in person examination.

The Chair addressed details of the remote examination and discussion was had regarding the acceptance of additional applications, the withdrawal of applications, notice to those who previously withdrew or who applied after the prior filing period had closed. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to extend the date by which applicants for the remote examination may apply to August 7, 2020. Upon motion duly made by the Chair, seconded by Judge Solomon, it was voted unanimously to cap the total number of applications that will be accepted for the remote examination at seven hundred and fifty (750) plus the sixteen (16) applicants who applied after the prior filing period closed and who had their applications returned to them.

The Chair addressed the recent petition for diploma privilege from a number of recent law school graduates. The Committee heard comment from nineteen (19) such graduates and a law school professor in favor of diploma privilege.

Discussion was had regarding the Committee's duty and obligation to protect the public, technical disparities faced by applicants and ways in which local law schools may be able to assist in addressing those concerns, the inclusion of Massachusetts School of Law as a Committee approved school, and the speed with which the Special Meeting was noticed in order to make a timely decision on whether to administer the remote examination. The Chair directed that the issue of diploma privilege be placed on the agenda of the Regular Meeting scheduled for July 31, 2020.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Phelan, seconded by Ms. Simonetti, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the public portion of the meeting at 12:45 p.m. (EDT).

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN L. KARPIE
Secretary