

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

February 18, 2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this meeting was held remotely via Zoom as authorized by Order of Governor Greg Abbott, suspending Application of Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 551.127(b).

1. Call to order, determine quorum, and consider requests for excused absences.  
Chair Augustin Rivera, Jr. called the meeting to order in open session at 4:03 PM. All Board Members were present.
2. Report of Executive Director on factors impacting February 2021 Texas Bar Exam applicants and possible administration of later exam for certain February 2021 Texas Bar Exam applicants.

Hoang opened her comments by noting that to qualify as a UBE, the examination must be given on specified dates as established by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, so postponing the February exam would mean that it would not qualify as a UBE. Texas currently has slightly more than 1,300 applicants registered for the February 2021 examination, of which approximately 720 have downloaded the required examination materials to laptops. This suggests that more than half of the February 2021 examinees are ready to complete the exam. As such, staff feel strongly that allowing all February applicants the opportunity to take the exam next week, as scheduled, is preferable. To assist February applicants who want to complete the February 2021 examination, BLE is offering reimbursements of up to \$250 each for examinees to rent exam space offering reliable internet and utilities. Applicants have also been offered the opportunity to defer enrollment to July 2021 with no penalty.

Staff are also cognizant of the hardships currently faced by many of the applicants, so Hoang said that a possible solution could be for Texas to offer a second examination in addition to the scheduled February 2021 examination. This second examination would not be recognized as a UBE, so would not offer score portability; it would offer licensure in Texas only.

3. Executive Session pursuant to Texas Gov't Code sec. 551.088 and Rule 7 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas to discuss confidential matters related to possible later exam for certain February 2021 Texas Bar Exam applicants.

To discuss confidential matters related to a potential second bar exam for February applicants, Chair Rivera closed the meeting to Executive Session at 4:13 PM.

Chair Rivera returned the meeting to open session at 4:55 PM.

4. Consider communications from the public, if any.  
Dean Michael Barry of the South Texas College of Law and William Bloodworth of the Bloodworth Law Firm presented public comments.

5. Consider status of the February 2021 Texas Bar Examination and administration of second exam.

Massey offered a motion to approve all recommendations of the staff, including administration of the February 2021 examination as planned, administration of a second exam for February applicants with details to be determined by BLE staff, deferral for any examinee of the February 2021 examination to the July 2021 examination without penalty, and reimbursement of up to \$250 per examinee for the rental of space with reliable internet and utilities to sit for the February 2021 examination. Soltero offered a second to the motion. Rivera called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Adjourn.

Chair Rivera adjourned the meeting at 5:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nahdiah Hoang  
Executive Director

Approved by:



Augustin Rivera, Jr.