



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Online Administration of the Bar Examination in New York

PURPOSE: To review the procedures of the online attorney admission examination administered October 5-6, 2020 and recommendations for future such administrations of the examination

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.

<https://www.nyasembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Typically, more than 10,000 law school graduates take the New York attorney admission examination, generally known as the “bar examination,” in July of each year. On average, an additional 4,000 persons take the bar examination each February. The pass rate for the examination is generally near sixty percent.

Due to public health concerns related to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, the State Board of Law Examiners postponed the in-person bar examination that had been scheduled for July, 2020. The Board again postponed the rescheduled in-person exam that had been planned for September, 2020. Ultimately, on October 5-6, 2020, in place of the traditional in-person exam, the Board of Law Examiners, for the first time in New York, conducted and proctored a bar examination administered online. The next New York State bar examination, also planned for administration online, is scheduled for February 22-23, 2021.

The purpose of this hearing is to enable members of the Committee to learn more about how the recent bar examination was administered online. Testimony is sought from officials involved in the planning, crafting and execution of the online examination, as well as a limited number of representative persons who sat for this examination and/or are familiar with the administration procedures.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of an emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes’ duration. Witnesses are encouraged not to read their statements verbatim, but to instead summarize the key points raised therein. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in receiving testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chair. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony at the public hearing on online administration of the bar examination in New York are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and e-mail a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be e-mailed to:

Nathaniel Jenkins
Email: jenkinsn@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4313

- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing on online administration of the bar examination in New York to be conducted by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.

- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____