

Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners
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April 28, 2020

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Dear Law Deans:

I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners with the hope that you, your families and your communities are well in these difficult and worrisome times.

We know that you and your students have a significant interest in how the Board will address the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the July 2020 bar exam, and so I wanted to write to let you know that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has approved the following recommendation from the Board.

First, the July 2020 bar exam will be rescheduled to September 9-10, 2020. As you know, one component of the Pennsylvania exam is the multi-state bar examination (the "MBE"), which is created and distributed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (the "NCBE"). Because of security concerns, the NCBE requires that all jurisdictions offering a particular iteration of the MBE do so on the same day. When questions arose about a potential need to reschedule the July 2020 exam, the NCBE offered later dates. Given the need for sufficient facility space, we have chosen September 9-10, 2020. We recognize that the viability of those dates depends on factors that cannot now fully be assessed, and we will continue to work with those studying COVID-19 and proper safety measures.

Second, the Supreme Court will be entering an order allowing the Board to grant to qualified applicants limited licenses to practice under the supervision of experienced lawyers. The Court's order describes in detail the requirements for such limited licenses, the scope of the permitted practice and the duration of that practice. The Board believes this order represents an appropriate balance between



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the need to ensure that the public is represented competently, the particular need for additional lawyers to assist the public during and after the pandemic and the need for graduating law students to start the careers for which they have worked and invested so much.

We know that many suggested other approaches. Please know that the Board reviewed and considered them all. We are dealing with a situation unlike any in the Board's history, and we are grateful for the thoughtful comments and suggestions we have received and welcome additional comments and suggestions in the coming days and weeks.

We will continue to provide additional information about the implementation of this plan and other updates as soon as we are able, and we ask that you monitor the Board's website (www.pabarexam.org).

We wish you the best for good health.

Very truly yours,



David R. Fine
Chair