

To: [secretariat@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:secretariat@calbar.ca.gov)

Subject: **The February CA Bar Exam: An Urgent Call-to-Action**

Dear Members of the State Bar of California Board of Bar Trustees,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent issues and challenges surrounding the California Bar Exam, and its significant impact on law graduates.

The State Bar of California's move to administer the Bar Exam remotely in February was plagued by significant technical and support issues, which affected both February and future Bar-takers.

The result was that the February exam was marred by technical glitches, poor customer service by proctors and Bar staff, and serious concerns about the quality of the new exam questions. Meazure's software experienced lag, inconsistent functionality, and negligent proctoring. [Considerable news reporting has covered these problems.](#)

As a member of the California Bar, I have witnessed firsthand the frustration and stress caused by the repeated changes to the format and the overall unpredictability of the process. For many, the bar exam is a critical step toward beginning their legal careers, and the uncertainty surrounding it creates unnecessary burdens for individuals who have already invested significant time, energy, and financial resources into their legal education.

I would like to emphasize a few key issues that I believe deserve immediate attention:

1. **Uncertainty and Lack of Clear Communication:** Many examinees have expressed confusion regarding the changes in format, timing, and expectations surrounding the exam. Clear and timely communication is vital to help students and candidates prepare adequately and manage their expectations.
2. **Impact on Mental Health and Well-being:** The delays, compounded by the stress of preparing for such an important exam, have had significant effects on the mental health and well-being of candidates. Many have reported feeling overwhelmed and anxious due to the lack of clarity and the prolonged wait for exam results. This is particularly an issue for law students preparing to graduate and sit for the Bar Exam in July.
3. **Access and Fairness Concerns:** The bar exam, as currently structured, may disproportionately impact individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The cost

and accessibility of preparation materials and the challenges of balancing exam preparation with work or other responsibilities create concerning disparities.

4. **Need for Long-Term Reform:** The Bar Exam must evolve given the rapidly changing landscape of the legal profession, particularly with the rise of new technologies like artificial intelligence and the increasing importance of social justice considerations. A more holistic approach to assessing candidates' readiness for legal practice, beyond a single, high-stakes exam, would better serve the profession and ensure we prepare competent, ethical, and compassionate lawyers.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Board to consider reevaluating the current structure and procedures of the Bar Exam, with a focus on transparency, fairness, and accessibility. Creating a more supportive, equitable, and effective pathway for law graduates to enter the legal profession is crucial, particularly during this challenging and transformative period for both the legal industry and society.

In the immediate term, the Bar must adopt an approach that is fair to those people who took the exam in February without demanding more effort, time, and money. And the Bar must ensure that the July exam is administered in a proven format, not using untested materials and vendors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your efforts to uphold the standards of the legal profession and look forward to seeing positive changes that benefit both candidates and the public they will serve.

Sincerely,