

# **ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE UNIFORM BAR EXAMINATION**

**Type:** Limited Term Commission  
**Established:** June 1, 2016  
**Chair:** Jennifer A. Archer, Esq.  
**Report Date:** November 18, 2016  
**Reports to:** Chief Justice  
**Completion Date:** December 30, 2016

## **I. Background**

A substantial and number of jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). These jurisdictions include a number of states in the northeast, including New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Additionally, the American Bar Association and the Conference of Chief Justices have enacted resolutions encouraging all states to adopt the UBE. Maine already uses some of the components of the UBE as part of its bar examination. Accordingly, this Commission is created by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to consider the merits of adopting the UBE as a replacement for the current bar examination format so that Maine may benefit from the multijurisdictional benefits of the UBE and the portability of qualification for admission to the Maine bar.

## **II. Goals and Responsibilities**

The Commission will study the merits of adopting the entire UBE into the bar admission process in Maine and the process for that integration. At a minimum, this will encompass consideration of the following issues:

- whether the UBE should be adopted in Maine;
- whether, if the UBE is adopted, the bar examination should include a Maine-specific component and, if so, what form it would take;
- the date when the UBE would first be administered in Maine, taking into account any lead time needed for law schools, students, and others affected by the adoption of the UBE;
- scoring standards that Maine would use in the grading process;
- whether and how data such as bar passage rates and admissions should be monitored;
- how long UBE scores may be used as a basis for admission to the Maine bar;
- any changes in fees that would result from use of the UBE; and

- what ongoing role Maine should seek with the UBE Committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, which prepares the UBE.

No later than November 18, 2016, the Commission shall issue a report to the Chief Justice containing its findings and recommendations.

### **III. Resources**

The Commission may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups outside of its membership. The Commission may invite consultants to its meeting as needed.

### **IV. Membership**

The membership list is attached and may be modified at any time at the discretion of the Chief Justice.

### **V. Subcommittees and Voting**

At the discretion of the Chair, the Commission may designate subcommittees to address specific issues and report back to the Commission. Subcommittees may invite additional input.

The Commission will work through consensus. All members of the Commission are voting members. Where consensus is not possible, a vote of the majority of the membership will be sufficient to include a recommendation in the report. A minority report may be included in the final report.

### **VI. Reporting**

The Commission will report to the Chief Justice on or before November 18, 2016. When the Commission submits its report to the Chief Justice, the Commission shall also submit its report to the Maine Board of Bar Examiners, which then shall draft amendments to the Maine Bar Admission Rules that would implement the Commission's recommendations. The Board shall submit to the Court the draft amendments to the Rules on or before December 16, 2016.



**ADVISORY COMMISSION ON UNIFORM BAR EXAMINATION  
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

Jennifer A. Archer, Esq., Chair  
E. James Burke, Esq., Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Dean Danielle M. Conway, or designee, University of Maine School of Law  
Ann M. Courtney, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners  
Deborah Firestone, Esq., Executive Director, Board of Bar Examiners  
Tracy Gorham, ADA, Maine Prosecutors Association  
Thomas A. Knowlton, AAG, Office of the Maine Attorney General  
Eleanor B. Maciag, Esq., Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services  
Linda D. McGill, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners  
Paul H. Mills, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners  
Jodi L. Nofsinger, Esq., Maine Trial Lawyers Association  
Durward Parkinson, Esq., Maine State Bar Association  
Elizabeth J. Scheffee, Esq., Maine State Bar Association  
Laura Shortill, Esq., Maine State Bar Association  
SJC Liaison, Associate Justice Jeffrey L. Hjelm