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March 1, 2016

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0037

Re: **Comments: Ad Hoc Committee on the Uniform Bar Examination**

To The Honorable Committee Chair, and its members:

I am writing in response to the Notice to The Bar regarding this Committee's recommendation to adopt the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). Although I concur it the Committee's recommendation, I would ask if it would be possible to obtain assurances from New York regarding their treatment of UBE transfer scores from New Jersey, and find out if the other two UBE tests, the MEE and MPT also have some subtleties such as the MBE (described below).

I graduated Rutgers Law School, Camden, in May, 1989, subsequently enrolled and completed a popular bar review course, then registered for, and sat for the July, 1989, New York and New Jersey Bar Examinations. Just as the Committee noted, the format for the dual administration was sitting for the New York specific portion on Tuesday, followed by the MBE on Wednesday, and then returning to New Jersey for its New Jersey specific portion on Thursday. However, as the committee heard, as a New Jersey resident I was not allowed to cross the Hudson River into New York City to take the New York Bar Examination, but had to travel to Albany.

The result of the July examination, unfortunately, was an MBE score a point or two below the threshold, requiring retaking the New York Bar Examination in February, 1990, at which time I was again scheduled to sit in Albany, and, because New Jersey allowed me to bank my essays, I traveled on the third day to Stamford, Connecticut, and sat for the Connecticut Bar Examination state specific portion. After completing the February examinations, which were preceded by the BarBri MBE Bar Review Course, I was successful and subsequently admitted to all three jurisdictions.

As a result, I have the following observations to share with the Committee:

1. New York adds an intentional extra step by requiring out of state bar examination takers to drive the additional two plus hours to Albany, instead of New York City, and it seems by the Committee report, that now an out of state examination taker may even have to travel many more hours to Buffalo.
2. I was surprised when my original bar review course did not properly prepare me for the MBE. When I subsequently took the BarBri MBE Bar Review Course I found out that my score was not deficient because I had selected incorrect answers, but rather that the MBE multiple choice paradigm required all the right answers, of which there may be

more than one.

3. The Continuing Legal Education requirement of New York is comparable to New Jersey's fairly recent regimen, so that also militates toward multi-jurisdiction practice such as mine.
4. I was subsequently admitted on motion to District of Columbia based upon my MBE and MPRE scores, so I would add another positive to adopting the UBE.

Therefore, I have read the Committee's report and concur with the findings. In fairness I wanted to share my experiences regarding the MBE, and New York's other subtle ways of increasing effort and creating barriers to out of state attorneys and law school graduates. It may be worthwhile to add those concerns for consideration as well.

Please contact me if there are any other questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Hrycak, NJ Id 2011990

cc: file

Enclosure(s): none