

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF)
THE NEXTGEN BAR EXAM AND REDUCTION)
TO THE PASSING SCORE FOR UNIFORM BAR)
EXAM)
_____)

ORDER

NO. 25700-B-710

WHEREAS, current Admission and Practice Rules require most applicants for admission to practice as a lawyer in Washington to take and pass the National Conference of Bar Examiners' (NCBE) Uniform Bar Examination (UBE); and

WHEREAS, applicants can either take the UBE administered by the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) or transfer eligible UBE scores earned in another jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, NCBE has announced that it will transition from UBE to the NextGen Bar Exam (NextGen) over a two-year period beginning with the July 2026 bar exam; and

WHEREAS, APR 4(d)(1) sets Washington's minimum UBE passing score at 270; and

WHEREAS, this Court has previously reduced the minimum UBE passing score to 266 for exams administered in July and September 2020 (Order No. 25700-B-623), February 2021 (Order No. 25700-B-651), July 2021 (Order No. 25700-B-661), February 2022 (Order No. 25700-B-673), and July 2022 (Order No. 25700-B-683); and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that the modified UBE passing score of 266 should continue until the implementation of the NextGen exam, including examinations already administered in February and July of 2023 and in February of 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's inherent power over admission to practice law, it is hereby

ORDERED:

Washington shall adopt the NextGen Bar Exam. The first administration of the NextGen Bar Exam in Washington shall be July 2026. Upon adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam, Washington will continue to accept UBE scores for applicants seeking to transfer their scores for admission.

The WSBA shall propose necessary amendments to the APR to effectuate adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam, including setting the minimum passing score for the exam and identifying the corresponding UBE score for those seeking to transfer scores from other jurisdictions.

APR 4(d)(1) is modified to allow for UBE minimum passing score of 266 for the lawyer bar examinations administered in Washington State from July 2020 through the implementation of the NextGen Bar exam.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 15th day of March, 2024.


CHIEF JUSTICE