

State of New York Court of Appeals

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Request for Public Comment on the Uniform Bar Exam

November 12, 2014

In light of the many issues and questions related to the proposed changes to the New York Bar Exam, the comment period on the Uniform Bar Exam will be extended to March 1, 2015. A study committee headed by the Honorable Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, will comprehensively examine any and all matters related to New York's proposed transition to the Uniform Bar Exam. The study committee will be composed of representatives of law schools, the bar, the judiciary, and the State Board of Law Examiners. During the extended comment period, the study committee will hold a series of public hearings and informational presentations around the state. After the close of the comment period, the committee will provide a report and recommendations to the Court of Appeals on the possible adoption and implementation of the Uniform Bar Exam.

In order to give sufficient advance notice to law schools and to law students who are planning their coursework and preparing for the bar exam, the Uniform Bar Exam will not be implemented in July 2015, and further steps will await the recommendations of the study committee to the Court of Appeals. The committee will continue to assess the ramifications of implementing the Uniform Bar Exam in New York while preserving the preeminent status of New York bar admission.

Persons or organizations wishing to comment should e-mail their submissions by March 1, 2015 to UniformBarExam@nycourts.gov or write to: Diane Bosse, Chair, New York State Board of Law Examiners, Corporate Plaza, Building 3, 254 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203-5195. All public comments will be treated as available for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law, and are subject to publication by the Office of Court Administration.