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From: Ariana Kenourgios <AKenourgios@messner.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Supreme Court Clerk <nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Nevada Bar Exam

To the Honorable Court,

As a Nevada attorney, I have an ongoing interest in the integrity of the Nevada Bar Exam and the integrity of Nevada Bar admissions. I believe the Nevada Bar Exam creates a fair process by which new attorneys are measured and granted access to the practice of Nevada Law. I also believe the Nevada Bar Exam affords a level of ethical responsibility and commitment to the standard that Nevada has maintained throughout the years for its legal community.

It is understandable that Nevada, like other states, is concerned about ongoing need for social distancing in the face of COVID-19 as it relates to the upcoming July 2020 examination. The present proposal, which merely eliminates the MBE portion of the exam and allows for online, open book, essay writing does not appear to be the solution. While there may not be an easy answer, an online examination consisting of only essay questions swings too far from the examination standards that currently exist. While it is our hope that future attorneys would take the examination with integrity, there are significant possibilities that examinees could utilize resources (and perhaps even in-person resources) that give them an unfair advantage, calling the standardization of the exam into question, as well as the integrity of the actual person taking the exam.

Further, this raises the question of what effect this would have on individuals that previously passed the written portion of the exam but scored below-average on the MBE section, thereby failing? As an attorney who had to retake the bar examination due to failing the MBE portion, I find it extremely substandard to allow that portion of the bar to be ignored entirely. Moreover, my bar class sat through one of the lowest passage rate examination ever given. If individuals cannot meet these same standards of the bar examination, do they meet the standard to litigate in this state?

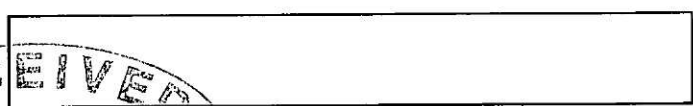
The State Bar of Nevada has a vested interest in ensuring high-caliber attorneys be admitted in Nevada. As such, July 2020 examinees should be subject to the same (or substantially similar) examination as those that have come before and those that will come after. Suspending the rules for a single examination will only create chaos.

To that end, simply postponing this exam in its existing format (Essays, MBE, and PT) to September, may be the best solution. Or alternatively, administering the existing exam to smaller groups of people who are socially distanced (6 ft.) across different venues.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariana M. Kenourgios

NV BAR NO: 14223



20-18376

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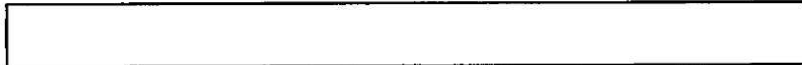
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