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Psychologist Emeritus  
Shawne M. Monahan  
Pamela A. Thein



THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

180 E. 5th Street, Suite 950  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
(612) 297-1857  
(612) 297-1196 Fax  
BLEC@ble1@mbcle.state.mn.us  
www.ble.mn.gov  
TTY Users - 711  
Ask For 297-1857  
May 31, 2019  
Emily John Eschweiler  
Director  
**FILED**  
**OFFICE OF**  
**APPELLATE COURTS**

May 31, 2019

By Electronic Filing

AnnMarie S. O'Neill  
Clerk of Appellate Courts  
305 Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Interim Report re: Early Bar Exam Proposal - Court File No. ADM10-8008

Honorable Justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court:

On February 14, 2019, the Court issued an Order *In Re Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Admission to the Bar* denying the Minnesota State Bar Association's Petition to permit third year law students to sit for the Minnesota Bar Examination. The Order also referred the Petition to the Director of the Board of Law Examiners to provide additional background information on the proposals regarding early bar exam options and procedures.

The Order also instructed the Director to convene an ad hoc committee comprised of two members of the Board of Law Examiners, two members from the Board of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, two representatives from the MSBA, and up to four representatives from the administration of each of the Minnesota law schools.

In March, the Deans for the Minnesota law schools each submitted three to four names to participate on the committee; Paul Godfrey, MSBA President, appointed two representatives from the MSBA; and the Chair of the Board of Lawyers Professional Responsibility and the Secretary<sup>1</sup> of the Board of Law Examiners each appointed two representatives. The ad hoc committee list is attached.

The committee held its first meeting on May 13, 2019, and discussed the scope of the committee's work and the committee's timeframe. The committee will meet monthly between June and January, with additional work to be completed by staff and subcommittees between each meeting. The initial work of the committee will be to gather data from jurisdictions that have adopted rules that permit eligible students to sit for the bar examination prior to graduation. The committee also hopes to gather from these

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<sup>1</sup> Douglas Peterson, Board President, is General Counsel for the University of Minnesota. Mr. Peterson has recused himself from the discussion and Board vote on this issue.

Ms. O'Neill  
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jurisdictions any data related to financial impact to applicants who have sat for the examination prior to graduation.

The committee intends to answer the initial question posed by the Court as to whether to proceed with the pilot project in early fall, and the further question of design of the proposed pilot project, rules that should govern the pilot project, and the criteria for evaluating the results of the pilot project subsequent to that question. The committee discussed that these issues intertwine and that the answer to the initial question may be impacted by the projected design.

The committee will also seek input from a variety of stakeholders and once the committee has a few alternative proposals for how a program might be structured, intends to analyze administrative costs and the impact to potential law students. The committee will seek input through request for written comments, invitations to provide additional information, and through a stakeholder survey.

If the Court has any questions on the process or seeks additional information, I would be more than happy to provide.

Minnesota Board of Law Examiners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily John Eschweiler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily John Eschweiler  
Director

## Committee to Study the Early Bar Exam

<b>MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Landon Ascherman	MN Board of Professional Responsibility
Thomas H. Boyd	MN Board of Law Examiners
Lisa Brabbit	University of St. Thomas School of Law
Carol Chomsky	University of Minnesota School of Law
Leanne Fuith	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Monica Gould	University of St. Thomas School of Law
George Henry	Minnesota State Bar Association
Kate Kruse	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
William McGeveran	University of Minnesota School of Law
Claudia Melo	University of Minnesota School of Law
Joel Nichols	University of St. Thomas School of Law
Randall Ryder	University of Minnesota School of Law
Dena Sonbol	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Sarah Soucie Eyberg	Minnesota State Bar Association
Pamela A. Thein	MN Board of Law Examiners
Robin M. Wolpert	MN Board of Professional Responsibility