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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

When others are gearing up for the beginning of a new school year, the Conference is also busy marking the beginning of a new fiscal year with rotation of officers, restructuring of committees, and the refreshment of its mission. I am greatly privileged to succeed Fred Yu as Chair of the Conference. We are deeply grateful for Fred's quiet, persistent, and capable leadership. He successfully guided the Conference through perilous economic times, enabled it to make great progress in expanding its capacity to provide expertise and technical support to the jurisdictions, and promoted strategic discussions on issues of diversity, globalization, and the pressures on legal education, all of which affect the licensing of lawyers. Fred encouraged continued improvement of the multistate examinations and provided enthusiastic support for the ongoing exploration of a uniform bar examination. Thank you, Fred, for an exciting and productive year for the Conference.

This year we hope to continue the momentum on these several fronts. The committees have been reconstituted with a rich mix of both veteran and new members. We are especially excited to have added new members who were identified by the board or by Conference staff as persons who were committed to the bar admissions process and who would offer fresh perspectives on the issues facing bar admissions. The work of these committees is the lifeblood of the Conference. We appreciate all of you who accepted appointments to the various committees.

This could be the year when the Uniform Bar Exam moves from concept to implementation. The joint meeting of the Special Committee on the Uniform Bar Exam and the Uniform Bar Exam Planning Group was held in Phoenix on November 1-3. The Special Committee includes several past chairs of the Conference and leaders in legal education. The Planning Group includes

representatives from the jurisdictions that are the most likely candidates for early implementation of the UBE.

We have expanded the membership of the Diversity Issues Committee, and it began the year with an October meeting that was coupled with an invitational Academic Support Conference. The latter involved representatives from 40 law schools who discussed the bar preparation courses that are offered in their schools.

In a continuing effort to support the exchange of information on issues under the Americans with Disabilities Act, we hosted a mini seminar in September featuring Robert Burgoyne of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP, a nationally prominent expert on testing programs and ADA procedures. The seminar's purpose was to look at developing uniformity among jurisdictions on the forms and instructions provided to applicants for requesting testing accommodations and for obtaining the reports of professionals who provide the diagnostic support for the requested accommodations.



The Conference staff expects another busy year, hosting the policy committees and drafting committees for the multistate exams, providing grading workshops, monitoring test administration, and assisting the jurisdictions as requested with character and fitness reviews, statistical collection and analyses, specialized consulting on technical issues, educational programs, and publications.

We look forward to the important work of the committees as the year progresses. I hope to see many of you at your committee meetings, and I hope to see all of you at the NCBE Annual Bar Admissions Conference in Austin, Texas, on April 15–18, 2010. 📍

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Hanson