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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It is an honor and a privilege to chair the National Conference of Bar Examiners for the 2012–2013 year. Seventeen years ago, when I responded to a notice in the *Florida Bar News* requesting applicants for a lawyer vacancy on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, I didn't have a clue as to what was behind the curtain. A former bar examiner, now a federal judge, encouraged me to apply. He assured me it would give me a unique opportunity to serve our profession and to work with other dedicated board members and an extremely competent staff all the while accumulating for myself an impressive collection of miniature bottles of shower gel and shampoo. What's not to love? I took the bait and have been forever satisfied with the decision. It opened up a world filled with overwhelming responsibility but also one filled with the opportunity for significant personal satisfaction. I never dreamed, however, when I sat for the first MBE given 40 years ago in February 1972, that I would have the opportunity to chair the Conference.

Through my participation in the work of the Conference, I have come to understand much more fully the scope and importance of the work it performs for the nation's bar examiners. The Conference now provides more direct services to the individual jurisdictions than ever in its history—from educational conferences, workshops, and mini-seminars to character and fitness investigation and testing services.

Rebecca Thiem has led the Conference this past year with vision and determination. Under her leadership, the job analysis portion of the Content Validity Study was completed in August. The Content Validity Study will continue throughout this year. It is important in high-stakes tests such as those produced by the Conference that a study be periodically performed to

validate the test content. The year-long job analysis undertaken by the Long Range Planning Committee to understand what newly licensed lawyers are actually doing in their practice is a part of this effort. The job analysis includes, among other things, general tasks being performed as well as those specific to particular areas of practice. The Board of Trustees and the staff will continue to review the data from the study and seek the input of other committees of the Conference regarding the study's application to its tests.



Rebecca will indeed be a hard act to follow, as she has also paved the way for continued growth in the Conference's ability to provide leadership in bar admissions in other ways. The Uniform Bar Examination has continued to gain momentum, having already been adopted by 10 states and being under current consideration by the Courts in several more.

The Conference's committees are the backbone of its operation. We depend on the committee structure to produce ideas for improvement in licensure procedures for the future. The committee membership this year (see page 38) includes many seasoned veterans as well as many first-time members. We are particularly excited about the many new faces that have been identified by staff or board members as individuals who are dedicated to the bar admissions

process and who will bring with them new and innovative ideas. Serving on a committee is truly a labor of love, and we appreciate each person's willingness to serve. I look forward to personally meeting with the committees during the year.

I am constantly amazed at the knowledge, competency, and enthusiasm of the Conference staff. There is no hill they would not climb or have not climbed under the unfailing leadership of Erica Moeser. They all share the volunteers' dedication to the mission of the Conference.

This will be a busy year. There are even more hills to climb. I am confident that my job will be much easier because of all of those who preceded me and because of the continued dedication to excellence in the bar admissions process of our volunteers and staff. 📧

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. R. Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "H".

Franklin R. Harrison