



**Information Regarding the Los Angeles Area Earthquake on
Tuesday, July 29, 2008 and the Grading of the
July 2008 California Bar Examination**

During the final minutes of the morning session of the first day of the California Bar Examination on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, an earthquake struck the Los Angeles area. The test centers at the Ontario Convention Center, Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel, Anaheim Convention Center, Radisson Hotel – LAX and California Market Place were affected. The earthquake impacted the administration of the examination at each test center in different ways. For instance, timing was stopped at some test centers, an additional five minutes was added to the session at one test center and applicants at all the test centers continued to type/write while others did not. Following the earthquake, the morning sessions were continued until time was called, which at most test centers was at the conclusion of the scheduled three hours of testing time, if they had not already been concluded before the earthquake occurred.

After ensuring that everyone at each test center was safe and that the buildings were structurally sound, the afternoon examination sessions began on schedule. The examination continued through the final day, Thursday, July 31, 2008, at the standard test centers without any further major incidents.

Grading of the examination will be conducted in accordance with the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) standard procedures. During the grading process, however, the Committee's psychometric consultant has been asked to perform a psychometric study on whether the earthquake impacted applicants' performance on the first session of the examination and to report his findings to the Committee prior to the release of results from the examination.

The Committee will consider its consultant's findings and determine what action, if any, should be taken to ensure that all applicants are treated as fairly as possible. Any actions the Committee might take will be discussed in the information made available at the time results from the examination are released to the applicants, which is scheduled for November 21, 2008.

While the Committee regrets that this incident occurred, the fact that it did was beyond its control. Each applicant and each test center was impacted differently by the earthquake, and for those testing outside the Los Angeles area not at all, during the same administration of this examination. Applicants should be assured that the Committee will take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure applicants are treated fairly, and at the same time not give one group of applicants an advantage over others.