



Correction of Isolated California Bar Exam Test Material Error at SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento

On August 3, 2023, a test material anomaly on the July California Bar Exam came to light. The anomaly occurred at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center test site in Sacramento. It was discovered that during the initial day of testing (July 25), two applicants were inadvertently provided with the February 2023 afternoon exam questions, rather than the intended July 2023 afternoon exam questions. The affected portion of the exam was comprised of Essay Questions 4 and 5, and the Performance Test.

Once the issue was identified, the State Bar promptly investigated to assess the scope and impact of the error. The investigation has concluded that the error was isolated and affected only two applicants. Further analysis revealed that the issue stemmed from an error that occurred during the printing vendor's process of packaging the July 2023 exam materials into boxes to be delivered to the test centers.

The printing company that produced the exam materials has confirmed that two sets of February 2023 afternoon exam questions, intended and maintained by the company for use as samples for how to collate the afternoon question sets for subsequent exams, were mistakenly packaged with the July 2023 afternoon exam questions. These mispacked materials were thereafter shipped to the Sacramento testing center.

In response to this incident, the State Bar consulted with its psychometric experts to propose a fair and reliable method for evaluating the two affected applicants' impacted answers. This approach ensures that the integrity of the examination process remains intact and that the exams of the impacted applicants are handled fairly, despite the unforeseen circumstance.

Further, the printing vendor has taken immediate corrective measures. They are implementing additional layers of quality control to their production and packing processes, with a particular emphasis on preventing similar errors in the future. Part of their enhanced process includes the complete disposal of previous exam materials.

The State Bar acknowledges the concern this situation may have caused for the affected applicants. We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and fairness in the administration of the bar exam. Steps have been taken to prevent such errors in future testing cycles.

It is important to note that applicant information is strictly confidential in accordance with California Business and Professions Code section 6060.25. Therefore, no details about the two affected applicants can be released.

For further information or inquiries, please contact admissions@calbar.ca.gov.