Florida Board of Bar Examiners
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Florida Board of Bar Examiners Publishes Exam Survey Results

The Florida Board of Bar Examiners has published results from its survey of Bar members about their practice and expectations for newly licensed lawyers. A report with the survey results is available on the Board’s website (www.floridabarexam.org/practiceanalysis).

More than 21,000 Bar members participated in the survey with over 13,000 Bar members completing the entire survey. The results will help guide members of the Supreme Court and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners as it works to implement significant changes to the way candidates are evaluated.

“The response rate for the Florida Practice Analysis Survey is a credit to the lawyers of Florida that they were willing to invest their time to contribute in this way to the practice of law in Florida,” Chief Justice Charles Canady said.

The research will assist the Florida Supreme Court and the Board as they consider what subjects the bar exam should cover and how to test them.

“The Board is grateful for the support of everyone who took the time to complete the survey and for the guidance of Dr. James Henderson and Scantron through the completion of this important study,” added Chair Jennifer Mooney. “The feedback gives the Board a strong foundation to assess changes that are coming to the exam.”

Those changes include the replacement of the 200-question Multistate Bar Examination, which has been part of the Florida bar exam for 50 years. The National Conference of Bar Examiners has announced that it intends to replace the Multistate Bar Examination and other Multistate exam products with the NextGen Bar Exam within the next four years.
The next phase of the Board’s work is to make specific recommendations about exam changes. The Board has asked its Test Subjects Committee to consider whether to recommend changes to the subjects currently tested on the exam, which would require amending the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. The Test Subjects Committee will also consider changes to the subtopics, or test specifications, that fall within those subjects.

The Board also has appointed a second committee, the NextGen Bar Exam Committee, to evaluate the replacement for the Multistate Bar Examination. The Board’s committee will use the results of the practice analysis to assess the extent to which the NextGen Bar Exam may have a role in the future of the Florida Bar Exam as well as other possible alternatives to the current exam’s design.

The survey was developed with the assistance of a special panel of judges, law professors, and attorneys representing a variety of experience levels and practice areas. The panel members include: Judge Katherine Floyd of Gainesville; Judge James McCune of Ocala; Althea Campbell of Coral Springs; Christine Cerniglia of Gulfport; Kristen Corpion of Miami; Iris Elijah of Miami; Shannan Field of Titusville; H. Scott Fingerhut of Miami; Harley Herman of Plant City; Glaucia Jones of Lake Mary; Marck Joseph of Miami; Brian Liegel of Miami; Joshua Magidson of Clearwater; Schnelle Tonge of West Palm Beach; Michelle Yard of Winter Garden; and Jennifer Zedalis of Gainesville.

Vice Chair Rachelle Munson added, “There is work to be done, but we cannot thank the Court, the Bar, and the Practice Analysis Panel enough for helping the Board get to this point.”