

Resolution 4
Endorsing Consideration of a Uniform Bar Examination

WHEREAS, the states' highest courts regard an effective system of admission and regulation of the legal profession as an important responsibility for the protection of the public; and

WHEREAS, the increased demand for lawyer mobility results in greater multijurisdictional practice and increased access to admission on motion; and

WHEREAS, the increasing use of uniform, high quality testing instruments has rendered most jurisdictions' bar examinations substantially similar; and

WHEREAS, law is the only major profession that has not developed a uniform licensing examination; and

WHEREAS, a uniform licensing examination for lawyers would facilitate lawyer mobility and enhance protection of the public; and

WHEREAS, state bar admission authorities and state supreme courts would remain responsible for making admission decisions, including establishing character and fitness qualifications and setting passing standards, and enforcing their own rules for admission; and

WHEREAS, issues relating to knowledge of local law can be addressed through a mandatory educational component, a separate assessment, or a combination thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices urges the bar admission authorities in each state and territory to consider participating in the development and implementation of a uniform bar examination.