

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

RESOLUTION 10

Urging Consideration of Implementation of Uniform Bar Examination

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices adopted Resolution 4 at its 2010 Annual Meeting urging bar admission authorities in each state and territory to consider participating in the development and implementation of a Uniform Bar Examination (UBE); and

WHEREAS, the UBE is now in its fifth successful year with twenty-one jurisdictions scheduled to administer the exam in 2016; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the UBE nationally will make the bar examination process more efficient and less costly for recent law school graduates; and

WHEREAS, because the UBE results in a portable score that can be transferred to other UBE jurisdictions to seek admission, the UBE provides recent graduates with greater mobility and flexibility in seeking employment; and

WHEREAS, UBE jurisdictions maintain local control over bar admission including establishing character and fitness qualifications, setting passing standards and enforcing its own rules for admission, while administering a uniform, high-quality examination of minimum competence to practice law; and

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

WHEREAS, moving toward greater adoption of the UBE will also help align the legal profession with other professions, such as accounting and medicine, that already utilize a uniform exam for board licensure; and

WHEREAS, the widespread adoption of the UBE would better reflect the multijurisdictional practice of law today, while ensuring a standard level of competency for all lawyers throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, many states already administer the functional equivalent of the UBE given the exams currently used, formal adoption of the UBE is not a drastic but a logical step;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices urges the bar admission authorities in each state and territory to consider implementation of the Uniform Bar Examination in their respective jurisdictions.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ Professionalism and Competence of the Bar Committee at the Conference of Chief Justices 2016 Midyear Meeting on February 3, 2016