

different assessment methods in the PCLL.

The strengths and weaknesses of various assessment methods are considered, including open and closed book examinations, take home work, papers and dissertations, oral assessments, students profiles and group assessment. Four main lessons about assessment methods are then derived from the Hong Kong experience.

Performance test research conducted

F D Morrissey & J P Smith
XXV *Syllabus* 3, Summer 1994, p 4

This article outlines a recent report entitled "Results of Research on the NCBE Performance Test" submitted to the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The report examines performance testing, and in particular experimental performance tests in three states conducted in July 1993. Each performance test was designed to test three lawyering skills: legal analysis, fact analysis and problem solving. A panel of content experts reviewed the items and evaluated how successful they were in testing what they were designed to test.

The report has three major chapters: one reports the technical findings of the research; one on the content validity of the study; and one on the perceptions of candidates who participated in the research.

The results of the research are mixed. The article describes these in some detail.

Work will continue to attempt to gauge the extent to which states are interested in having performance

test items included in their bar examinations.

CAREER PATHS

[no material in this edition]

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION

[no material in this edition]

CONTEXT, CRITICISM AND THEORY

[no material in this edition]

CONTINUING EDUCATION

[no material in this edition]

CURRICULUM

[no material in this edition]

DISTANCE EDUCATION

[no material in this edition]

ENROLMENT POLICIES

[no material in this edition]

EVALUATION

[no material in this edition]

FACILITIES

[no material in this edition]

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

[no material in this edition]

GOVERNANCE

Council creates commission to study accreditation

R A Stein

XXV *Syllabus* 3, Summer 1994, p 1

Reports on the establishment of a Commission to Review the Substance and Process of the American Bar Association's Accreditation of American Law Schools. To be chaired by Justice Rosalie E Wahl, the Commission's charge is to:

- examine the validity and the justification for law school accreditation;
- examine the relationship of the accrediting body with the House of Delegates and to the states' ultimate accrediting responsibilities;
- examine the Standards for Approval of Law Schools;
- evaluate the process of accreditation;
- prepare a policy perspective on the effect of the recently adopted Department of Education regulations related to accreditation agencies.

The Commission will report in August 1995.

The article then outlines several recent developments which made the establishment of the Commission desirable at this time.

Commission to review accreditation

R E Wahl

XXV *Syllabus* 4, Fall 1994, p 3

An open letter from the chairperson of the newly created Commission to Review the Substance and Process of the American Bar