DATE: February 21, 2013

TO: Law School Deans

FROM: Erica Moeser, President
National Conference of Bar Examiners

RE: Changes to the Multistate Bar Examination

Effective with the February 2015 administration of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), a seventh content area – Civil Procedure – will be covered for the first time. While the addition of Civil Procedure has been announced previously, the timing of its appearance has not. It would be helpful to your students if you would pass this information along to them and to the members of your faculty and staff who are affected (presumably Civil Procedure faculty, academic support personnel, and career services personnel).

The MBE consists of 200 multiple-choice questions, of which 190 are scored items and 10 are unscorred pretest items. The current list of topics include Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. The addition of Civil Procedure will mean that the number of questions per topic will decrease. Starting in 2015, there will be 28 questions covering Contracts, and 27 questions covering each of the six remaining topics, for a total of 190.

With the addition of Washington to the list of MBE jurisdictions in July of this year, every U.S. jurisdiction but Louisiana will use the MBE.

Test specifications for the MBE Civil Procedure items will be announced no later than June 30 of this year. In the meantime, the specifications for Civil Procedure, already a topic on the Multistate Essay Examination, are available on the NCBE website, www.ncbex.org. The website is the best source for obtaining information about all NCBE tests.

Thank you for disseminating this information, and best wishes.

cm/dk