Diane F. Bosse Award

for Excellence and Service in Bar Admissions

In 2024, the National Conference of Bar Examiners established an annual award in memory of **Diane F. Bosse.** The award honors a bar examiner who emulates the ideals that Diane embodied—leadership, vision, integrity, and extraordinary service in bar admissions—to enshrine Diane's legacy and commitment to service in our community, and to inspire a new generation of bar examiners.

About Diane F. Bosse

Diane passed away suddenly on March 17, 2024, stunning and deeply saddening her friends in the bar admissions community and beyond. Diane held an extraordinary place in our collective hearts and minds. She was a driving force for decades in bar admissions and legal education, and she was a dear friend, colleague, and mentor to many.

Diane's impact on bar admissions and legal education is immeasurable. She was appointed by the Court of Appeals to the New York Board of Law Examiners in 1998, after having served for 19 years as an assistant to the Board. Diane served as Board chair from 2001 to 2020. She was a member of NCBE's Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2008 and served as its chair from 2006 to 2007. With a sharp intellect and exacting standards, she was a pivotal influence on the substantive and administrative aspects of bar examination in New York and nationally throughout her tenure.

In addition to her service in New York and on NCBE's Board, Diane served on numerous NCBE committees, including as a member of the Testing Task Force and Implementation Steering Committee for the NextGen UBE. She played a significant role in laying the groundwork for adding Civil Procedure to the Multistate Bar Examination and was

instrumental in envisioning the Uniform Bar Exam, which has resulted in score portability for over 60,000 newly licensed lawyers.

Diane served as a member of the Council of the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar from 2014 to 2021 (chair 2019–2020). She also served on several Section Committees: Accreditation, including two years as chair; Standards Review; and Bar Admissions. It is remarkable how much of her professional life as a practicing lawyer Diane devoted to bar admissions and legal education.

Diane's decades of dedication to bar admissions and legal education have had a profound impact on thousands of lawyers, law students, and the profession itself. Her service to the betterment of American lawyer licensing is an inspiration to us all.

2027 Call for Nominations

Eligibility

This award will be given to a bar examiner or board member who demonstrates leadership, integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to serving the legal profession through bar admissions in their own jurisdiction and beyond to help ensure a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession. Bar admissions staff are not eligible.

Factors to be considered may include

- experience as a bar examiner serving on a local board of bar admissions (whether in a bar exam or character and fitness capacity);
- efforts to create or modify local and/or national policies around best practices in bar admissions;
- a commitment to ensuring fairness and thoroughness in the admissions process, through admission via bar exams and/or in the character and fitness investigation process;
- a commitment to public protection via a rigorous, fair, valid, and reliable licensure process;
- service on state, regional, or national committees dedicated to bar admissions best practices and/or legal education; and
- contributions to the education and mentoring of new bar examiners, judicial liaisons, legal educators, and/or admissions staff.

Nomination and Selection Process

Anyone may nominate a current or former bar examiner. Self-nominations are welcome. All nominations must be submitted via the nomination form available via the QR code below or at https://www.ncbex.org/about/bosse-award by January 13, 2027.

Current members of the NCBE Board of Trustees are not eligible.

A committee of bar admission professionals who worked with Diane will review nominations and make a recommendation to the NCBE Board of Trustees. Those committee members are:

- David R. Boyd (Alabama)
- Hon. Cynthia L. Martin (Missouri)
- John McAlary (New York)
- Hon. Solomon Oliver, Jr. (Ohio)
- Pieter Teeuwissen (Mississippi)
- Hon. Phyllis Thompson (Washington, DC)
- Timothy Wong (Minnesota)
- Augustin Rivera, Jr. (Texas), *ex officio*

Final selection is expected by mid-February 2027, at which time the award recipient will be notified and invited to attend NCBE's National Bar Admissions Conference, May 6–9, 2027, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award recipient will be honored at a conference luncheon ceremony on Friday, May 7.

Please direct any questions regarding this award or the nomination process to DianeFBosseAward@ncbex.org.

NCBE National Conference of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.