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Chief Justice



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**OREGON SUPREME COURT**

September 14, 2020

Troy Wood  
Oregon State Bar  
PO Box 231935  
Tigard, OR 97281-1935

Dear Members of the Board of Bar Examiners, Judge Lucero, and Mr. Wood,

As you know, this court recently approved admission to the Oregon State Bar for those who qualified for a form of “diploma privilege.” We did so at the request of the Oregon law schools and because of the unprecedented circumstances faced by 2020 graduates. We certainly hope that those circumstances will not be repeated, and we do not anticipate making another such decision, especially considering the availability of materials from the National Conference of Bar Examiners for on-line bar examinations and some reciprocal portability of scores from on-line bar examinations through agreements with other state bar examiners.

Nevertheless, as a result of the information we have been provided about alternatives for Bar admission, we are interested in considering whether, in the future, and excluding the Bar exams scheduled for February and July, 2021, Oregon should grant admission to the Bar on some basis in addition to passage of the Oregon Bar Exam or the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), such as a form of “diploma privilege.” We are asking that you provide us with your assessments regarding alternative paths to admission and the related question of what changes in rule or statute would be necessary to implement any changes to the requirements for admission. We also would appreciate your views as to the appropriate passing score on the UBE for Bar admission in Oregon.

We hope that you will form a task force to undertake this important project and that you will include Bar leaders and members, representatives of the Oregon law schools, law students, judges, legislators and other members of the public in this undertaking. We request that the task force complete its work and that you get your recommendations to us by June 30, 2021.

Thank you very much for considering these requests. Please let us know whether you will undertake this work, whether the June 30, 2021 date is feasible, and whether you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Martha L Walters  
For the Oregon Supreme Court