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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 2, 2024 – Today, the Supreme Court of Guam issued Administrative Order No. ADM24-002 adopting the NextGen Bar Examination, to be used in Guam beginning with the July 2026 exam. The NextGen Bar Examination will replace the current Guam Bar Exam and will contain none of the components of the current exam. The design of the NextGen Examination will reflect the work performed by newly licensed attorneys, testing legal doctrine and foundational lawyering skills, and balancing the skills and knowledge needed in litigation and transactional legal practice. These changes will align with many of the key changes law schools are making to their own curricula, building on the successes of clinical legal education programs, alternative dispute resolution programs, and legal writing and analysis programs. With today's Administrative Order, Guam joins several other jurisdictions that have committed to using the Next Gen Bar Examination upon its launch or soon thereafter.



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE NEXTGEN BAR EXAMINATION IN GUAM Supreme Court of Guam Administrative Order No. ADM24-002

WHEREAS, the Guam Board of Law Examiners administers the Guam Bar Examination twice annually using the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), Multistate Performance Test (MPT), and Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) (*see* Guam Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law, adopted through Promulgation Order No. 06-007-01 (Oct. 26, 2006)); *see, e.g.*, Supreme Court Case Nos. PRM00-002, PRM01-003; and

WHEREAS, NCBE, after an intensive process involving research and collaboration among stakeholders, will launch a new version of the bar examination, known as the NextGen Bar Exam; and

WHEREAS, NCBE has announced that the current exam materials offered (namely the MEE, MPT, and MBE) will be offered concurrently with the NextGen Bar Exam between July 2026 and February 2028, and that, beginning with the July 2028 administration of the bar exam, the current exam materials will no longer be available for any jurisdiction to use as a test for law licensure; and

WHEREAS, the NextGen Bar Exam will test a broad range of foundational lawyering skills, using a focused set of clearly identified fundamental legal concepts and principles needed in today's practice of law; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Board of Law Examiners ("BOLE") has considered whether to adopt the NextGen Bar Exam and, if so, when to begin administering the NextGen Bar Exam for Guam; and

WHEREAS, BOLE met and unanimously voted to recommend to the Supreme Court the adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam and that the first administration of the NextGen Bar Exam in

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Page 1 of 2

Guam be in July 2026, transmitting its written *Recommendation of the Guam Board of Law Examiners on the Adoption of the National Conference of Bar Examiners' NextGen Bar Examination* to the Supreme Court on February 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court is satisfied with the recommendation of BOLE that the NextGen Bar Exam will provide a sound basis for assessing competence to enter the practice of law in Guam; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to amend provisions of the Guam Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law to account for the change from the current Guam Bar Exam to the NextGen Bar Exam materials, which amendments shall be completed at least nine months before the first administration of the NextGen Bar Exam in Guam.

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority to "govern ...the practice of law in Guam, including admission to practice law," 48 U.S.C.A. § 1424-1(a)(7) (3), it is **ORDERED** that:

1. Guam shall adopt the NextGen Bar Exam; and

- 2. The first administration of the NextGen Bar Exam in Guam shall be in July 2026; and
- 3. The Supreme Court shall convene the Subcommittee on the Guam Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law to amend said Rules to account for the changes in test materials and procedures of the NextGen Bar Exam, which amendments shall be presented to the Supreme Court for promulgation by October 2025.
- **SO ORDERED** this 2nd day of February, 2024.

/s/	/s/
F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO	KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
Associate Justice	Associate Justice
/s/ ROBERT J. TORRES	
Chief Justice	
Pag	e 2 of 2