I. Background

A substantial and number of jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). These jurisdictions include a number of states in the northeast, including New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Additionally, the American Bar Association and the Conference of Chief Justices have enacted resolutions encouraging all states to adopt the UBE. Maine already uses some of the components of the UBE as part of its bar examination. Accordingly, this Commission is created by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to consider the merits of adopting the UBE as a replacement for the current bar examination format so that Maine may benefit from the multijurisdictional benefits of the UBE and the portability of qualification for admission to the Maine bar.

II. Goals and Responsibilities

The Commission will study the merits of adopting the entire UBE into the bar admission process in Maine and the process for that integration. At a minimum, this will encompass consideration of the following issues:

- whether the UBE should be adopted in Maine;
- whether, if the UBE is adopted, the bar examination should include a Maine-specific component and, if so, what form it would take;
- the date when the UBE would first be administered in Maine, taking into account any lead time needed for law schools, students, and others affected by the adoption of the UBE;
- scoring standards that Maine would use in the grading process;
- whether and how data such as bar passage rates and admissions should be monitored;
- how long UBE scores may be used as a basis for admission to the Maine bar;
- any changes in fees that would result from use of the UBE; and
• what ongoing role Maine should seek with the UBE Committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, which prepares the UBE.

No later than November 18, 2016, the Commission shall issue a report to the Chief Justice containing its findings and recommendations.

III. Resources

The Commission may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups outside of its membership. The Commission may invite consultants to its meeting as needed.

IV. Membership

The membership list is attached and may be modified at any time at the discretion of the Chief Justice.

V. Subcommittees and Voting

At the discretion of the Chair, the Commission may designate subcommittees to address specific issues and report back to the Commission. Subcommittees may invite additional input.

The Commission will work through consensus. All members of the Commission are voting members. Where consensus is not possible, a vote of the majority of the membership will be sufficient to include a recommendation in the report. A minority report may be included in the final report.

VI. Reporting

The Commission will report to the Chief Justice on or before November 18, 2016. When the Commission submits its report to the Chief Justice, the Commission shall also submit its report to the Maine Board of Bar Examiners, which then shall draft amendments to the Maine Bar Admission Rules that would implement the Commission’s recommendations. The Board shall submit to the Court the draft amendments to the Rules on or before December 16, 2016.
VII. Meetings

Meetings will be at the call of the Chair of the Commission, at times and places designated by the Chair. Meetings will be open to the public.

VIII. Commission Duration

Unless extended by further order of the Chief Justice, the Commission will cease to exist on December 30, 2016.

Dated: June 13, 2016

Approved by:

/s/
Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley
Maine Supreme Judicial Court
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON UNIFORM BAR EXAMINATION
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Jennifer A. Archer, Esq., Chair
E. James Burke, Esq., Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Dean Danielle M. Conway, or designee, University of Maine School of Law
Ann M. Courtney, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners
Deborah Firestone, Esq., Executive Director, Board of Bar Examiners
Tracy Gorham, ADA, Maine Prosecutors Association
Thomas A. Knowlton, AAG, Office of the Maine Attorney General
Eleanor B. Maciag, Esq., Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services
Linda D. McGill, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners
Paul H. Mills, Esq., Board of Bar Examiners
Jodi L. Nofsinger, Esq., Maine Trial Lawyers Association
Durward Parkinson, Esq., Maine State Bar Association
Elizabeth J. Scheffee, Esq., Maine State Bar Association
Laura Shortill, Esq., Maine State Bar Association
SJC Liaison, Associate Justice Jeffrey L. Hjelm