Illinois Bar Exam Information

Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar

625 South College Street
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 522-5917
www.ibaby.org

The Illinois Bar Exam is a 2-day exam

**Day 1:** One 90-minute Multistate Performance Test (MPT) question, the six-question Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) and three questions drafted by Illinois examiners.

**Day 2:** Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200 question, multiple-choice exam.

Subjects Tested

**MBE Subjects:** Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts.


**Multistate Performance Test:** "Closed universe" practical problem using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

Bar Exam Dates

The Illinois bar exam dates for 2011 are February 22 and 23 and July 26 and 27. The exam is administered in various locations in the downtown area of Chicago. Seat assignments are given approximately two weeks prior to the exam.
Filing Fees and Deadlines

Effective immediately all applications must be filed electronically with the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar. Visit www.ibaby.org for more information.

Law student registration filing fee is $100 for applicant who registers by March 1st of the first year of law school. Applicant who registers thereafter pays $450. Bar exam application must be filed by September 1st for the February exam and by February 1st for the July exam ($250). Late applications accepted with late fee until December 31st and May 31st respectively.

Grading and Results

The essays are worth approximately 43%, the MPT is worth approximately 7% and the MBE is worth approximately 50%. February exam results are generally released six weeks after the exam. July exam results are generally released 8-10 weeks after the exam.

Reciprocity

Acceptance of MBE Score: Applicants may transfer previous MBE scaled score of at least 140 from another jurisdiction if from preceding two exams and applicant passed the bar exam in jurisdiction where MBE was taken. Applicants may not have MBE score transferred to Illinois from a concurrent exam.

Admission on Motion: Persons admitted to practice in a reciprocal jurisdiction who have been engaged in the active and continuous practice of law for at least 5 of the 7 years prior to making application and who meet the educational requirements for admission on exam may be admitted on motion. Applicant must be a graduate of an ABA accredited law school and prove intent to practice a minimum of 500 hours annually, physically in Illinois.

In-House Counsel

Persons who will be working for an Illinois business as in-house counsel must be licensed, but if such persons are already licensed in another jurisdiction, they may apply for a limited "House Counsel" license pursuant to Rule 716 and no exam is required.