



- October 2 – Exploring Practice Areas sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin
- October 4 - Judicial Clerkships: Nuts and Bolts
- October 8 – California Out-of-State Job Search Call
- October 16 – Public Interest & Government Expo

Bar Exam Basics Workshop

University of Wisconsin Law School
Office of Career and Professional Development

This presentation is a basic overview of the bar application process, bar review courses, and bar loan information. It is not intended to replace instructions provided by the Board of Law Examiners in your respective state. The Office of Career and Professional Development does not endorse any particular bar review course, product, or loan.

The Bar Exam

- Two or three days depending on state
 - As of July 2017, California is a 2 day exam
- Always in July and February
- Exam Makeup:
 - Multistate Bar Exam (MBE)
 - Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) or State Specific Essay Exam
 - Multistate Performance Test (MPT) or State Specific Performance test

Multistate Bar Exam (MBE)

- 6 hours
- 200 multiple-choice exam
- Covers:
 - Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property and Torts
- Each jurisdiction determines the relative weight given to the MBE and other scores
- Many states accept transferred MBE scores if you have taken another state's bar exam
- Every jurisdiction uses the MBE except Louisiana and Puerto Rico

Essay Portion

- All states have an essay portion, but the number of questions and topics vary
- Questions and model answers are often written and graded by practitioners in that state
- The Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) is administered in all Uniform Bar Exam Jurisdictions (29) and in 11 additional jurisdictions

Multistate Essay Exam (MEE)

- Six, 30 minute questions
- Covers:
 - Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Conflicts of Law, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Family Law, Real Property, Torts, Trusts & Estates, and Uniform Commercial Code
- States that use the MEE may also create their own essay questions
- **BEWARE:** Even though the MEE is a multistate test, some states use it to test your knowledge of state law

Multistate Performance Test (MPT)

- Two, 90-minute skills questions
- Covers:
 - Legal analysis, fact analysis, problem solving
 - Resolution of ethical dilemmas, communication
 - Organization and management of lawyering task
- Administered in 47 jurisdictions
- Series of practical exercises common for attorneys (i.e. memorandum, brief, client letter, will)

MPT Continued...

- Materials
 - Each question contains a file and a library
 - File = documents providing you with relevant facts such as interviews, depositions, pleadings, correspondence, client documents, contracts, newspaper articles, medical records, police reports, and attorney notes
 - Library = legal materials such as statutes, rules, regulations, and case law
- Determine what's relevant, and apply to the facts
- Each individual state grades the MPT
- If a state does not use the MPT, it may have its own version
- **STUDY TIP:** Easy points if you *pay attention* to the assigned task
 - If it asks you to write a memo, put it in memo form

Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)

- Uniformly administered, graded, and scored bar examination that results in a portable score, not a portable status
- Consists of the MBE, MEE, and MPT
- Score transfers for admission in other UBE jurisdictions
 - **BEWARE:** there are caveats to this broad statement such as transfer deadlines, scores needed, specific rules per state
- Currently, 27 UBE States + District of Columbia and Virgin Islands:
 - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming

Bar Exam Applications

- Where do you find the application?
 - Most are online
 - A few states require you to send in a written request and check
- **IMPORTANT:** Some states require you to submit a Law Student Registration as a 1L or 2L. In some states you'll pay a higher fee (Ohio, California, Texas) if you don't register prior.
- Fees
 - Be aware of payment methods – some states require cashier's check or money order
 - Character and Fitness investigation fees
 - Laptop fees (likely due to software licensure)
 - Fees for late registration are MUCH higher
- **KNOW YOUR DEADLINE DATE!**

Application Hiccups

- Use your legal name
 - Some states require you to attach a copy of your Marriage Certificate (not license)
- LSAC #
 - Some states require you to provide your LSAC # from the LSAT exam
 - There is a website on the application to help you locate this number

Application Hiccups Continued...

- Addresses
 - Include **every** address since age 18 or last 10 years, depending on the state
 - Dorms, apartments, parent's house
 - Put it in chronological order

- Tips
 - Look at undergrad website under Residence Life
 - Look at old mail/email in files
 - Call family to look in old address books
 - Tax returns
 - Amazon order history

Application Hiccups Continued...

- Employment
 - Include **every** job since age 18 or last 10 years, whichever is required, even the “I just needed money” jobs
 - Don’t attach a resume unless requested
 - Include volunteer positions and internships
 - For temp agencies, include underlying jobs
 - You will need employer names and addresses
 - Give reason for leaving (**do not** leave this blank)
 - Explain employment gaps on applications

Application Hiccups Continued...

- Signature
 - Almost every state requires that your application be notarized
- Non-Law Enforcement Record Check
 - Be sure to sign waivers and releases
- Fingerprint Cards
 - Madison Police offers fingerprinting services

Application: Character and Fitness

- Confidential questions
 - Be honest
 - DISCLOSE, DISCLOSE, DISCLOSE
 - There are serious repercussions if you are not honest
 - If you disclosed something on your law school application, disclose it here, too.
 - If you should have disclosed something on your law school application, meet with admissions now.
- Most states have published Character & Fitness Standards

Applications: Judicial and Administrative Proceedings

- Car accidents that were adjudicated
 - Small claims, including landlord/tenant issues
 - Child support/alimony
 - Unsatisfied judgments
 - Misconduct
 - Bad credit issues
-
- You may need to attach documents (petition, answer, and depository orders)

Applications: Criminal Proceedings

- Almost always, the bar wants you to disclose **everything** except parking tickets since the age of 18
- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Seat belt violations, underage drinking, speeding, drug possession/sale, disorderly conduct, assault, domestic violence, disturbing the peace...
EVERYTHING
 - “I didn’t think it was important enough.” It is.
- Most states require you to disclose every occurrence, even if your record was sealed or expunged
- Most states require a detailed explanation, NOT just a printout
- **Lack of candor is more concerning than the fact that you haven’t led a perfect life**
- Nondisclosures follow you from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and from law school to bar authorities

Applications: Criminal Proceedings Continued...

- Wisconsin court cases and speeding tickets are online at:
<https://wcca.wicourts.gov/simpleCaseSearch.xsl>
- After an exhaustive search, if you can't find out-of-state tickets, explain the steps you took to locate them
- Call the bar for more instructions
- AVOID →

Let's celebrate finishing the bar exam by doing things that could get us disbarred.



someecards

Affidavit of Dean

- See the Registrar Amy Arntsen on the 5th Floor, NOT the Dean
- Other certifications or forms
 - Amy automatically submits the degree certification to the Wisconsin BBE **BUT...**



Additional Bar Information

- Transcripts
 - Some states require official copies
- Accommodations
 - Each state has a form that you must complete if you are requesting special accommodations
- Typing the Exam
 - Most states have a form or a box to check if you are requesting to type the exam
 - Usually a fee for using Examsoft Software
 - Most states have a laptop option
 - Make sure your laptop works – if it crashes during the exam, you will be required to finish by hand

Disclaimer

All deadlines have been updated where the information was available, but you should **NOT** rely solely on this presentation when filing your applications!

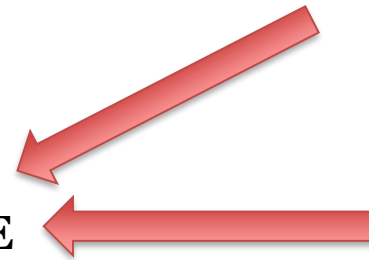
California

- <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/>
- February 2019 Exam Deadlines:
 - November 1 (timely filing) / January 15 (final filing deadline)
 - \$50 late filing fee: November 2 – November 30
 - \$250 late filing fee: December 1 – January 16
- Law student registration to the Committee of Bar Examiners required prior to submitting an application: \$119
- Cost: \$1,228 (includes Character & Fitness investigation)
- Laptop Fee: \$153
- Format:
 - 2 day exam
 - MBE +local essay 5 questions and 1 local performance tests

Illinois

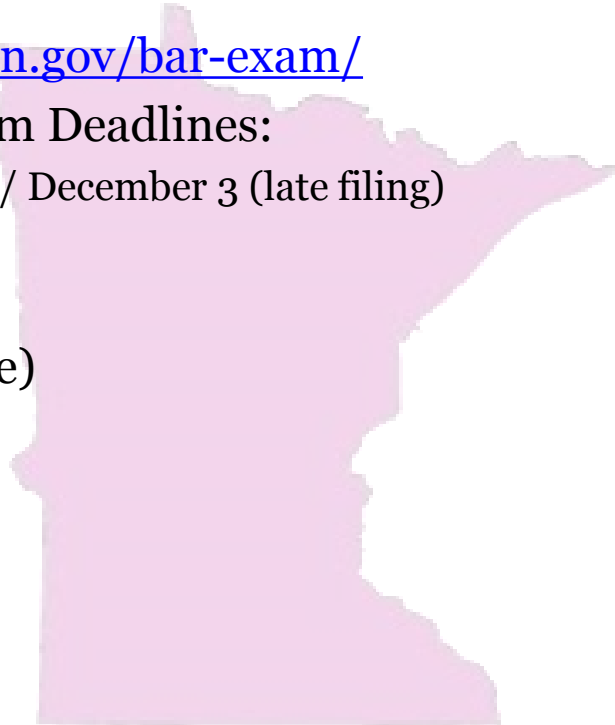
- <https://www.ilbaradmissions.org/home>
- February 2019 Exam Deadlines:
 - Before September 15 (timely) / December 15 (final filing deadline)
 - \$200* late filing fee: September 15 – November 1
 - \$500** late filing fee: November 2 – December 15
- Cost: Timely + registered law student = \$500 / Timely + not previously registered law student = \$950
- Laptop Fee: \$105
- Format:
 - MBE/MEE/MPT + 3 Illinois essay questions
 - References required

AS OF JULY 2019, ILLINOIS WILL JOIN THE UBE



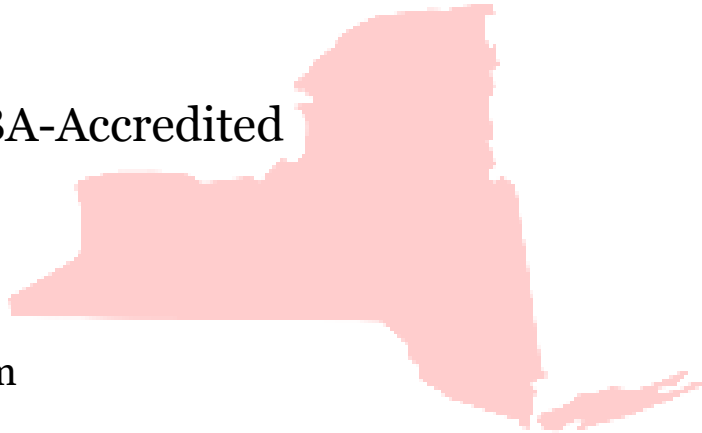
Minnesota

- <https://www.ble.mn.gov/bar-exam/>
- February 2019 Exam Deadlines:
 - October 15 (timely) / December 3 (late filing)
 - Late filing fee: \$150
- Cost: \$500 (on time)
- Laptop Fee: \$100
- Format:
 - Uniform Bar Exam



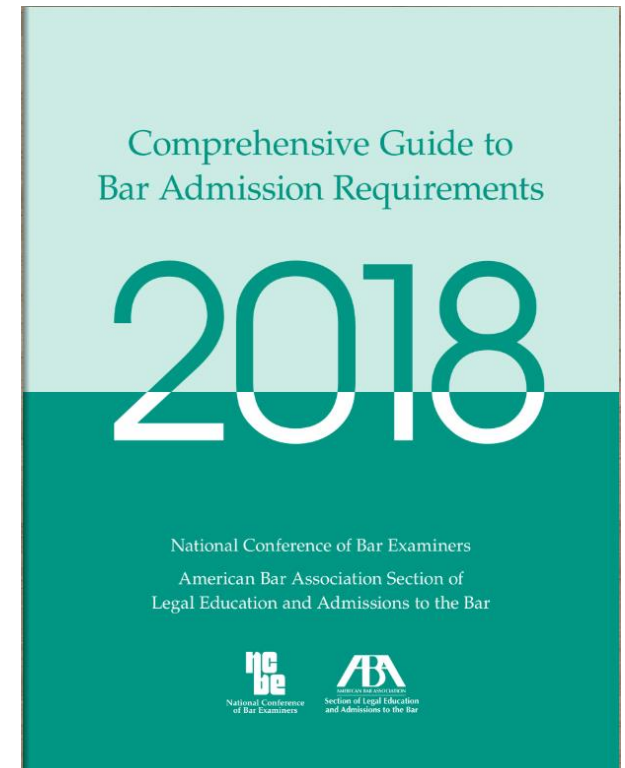
New York

- <http://www.nybarexam.org/TheBar/TheBar.htm>
- February 2019 Exam Deadline:
 - Applications received between November 1-30
 - NO late filing
- Cost: \$250 US ABA-Accredited
- Laptop Fee: \$100
- Format:
 - Uniform Bar Exam
- Additional requirements:
 - 50 Pro Bono Requirement
 - Completion of the New York Law Court
 - Take and pass the New York Law Exam



Other States

- Make sure you are reading specific state bar requirements
- Use the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements, which includes links to every jurisdiction bar admission website
- See Megan Zurbriggen with questions!



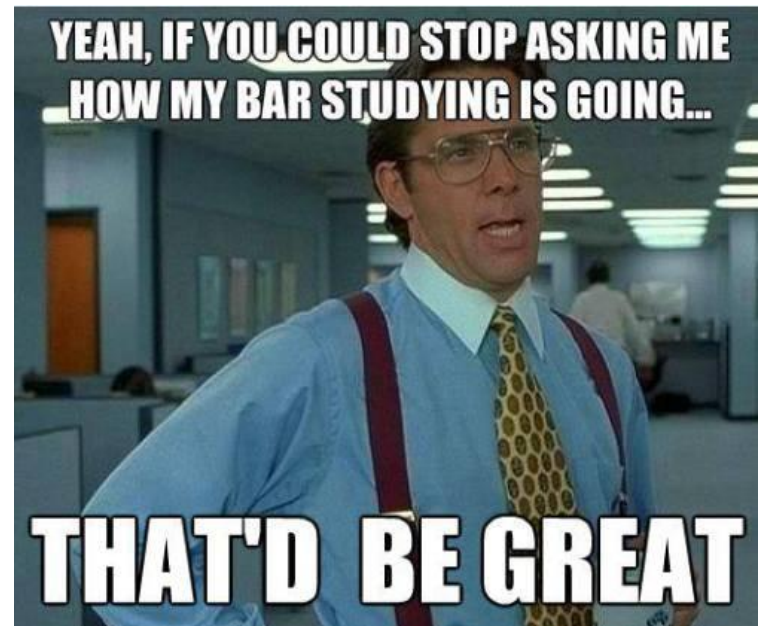
Bar Loans

- Compare interest rates and shop around
- Bar loans are private loans and may have higher interests rates

\$\$\$

Life Considerations

- Work vs. No Work
 - How did you do on law exams?
 - How are your time management skills?
- Prepping can be a “full time job”
- Give yourself some free time
- Don't think about bar passage rates



UW Law Academic Enhancement Program

- Bar exam skills classes are offered during the winter (if there is enough enrollment) and the spring
- Both 3Ls and LLMS are encouraged to attend
- Winter classes are usually offered for 6 consecutive days starting after New Years
- Spring classes are usually offered once a week over 5 or 6 weeks during the spring semester
- Classes are skills based - they do not teach content.
- Free and not credit bearing
- More information about the classes is available on the AEP website:
<https://law.wisc.edu/academicenhancement/bar.html>

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)

- Some states require an MPRE score **before** you can file to take the bar
- All jurisdictions require the MPRE for bar admission except: Wisconsin, Maryland, and Puerto Rico

MPRE Continued...


- Registration information can be found on the National Conference of Bar Examiners' (NCBE) website
- Be mindful of when you take the MPRE
- Prepping for the exam
- If you can't remember your score or if you sent your score to the bar, your NCBE account will have that information

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

2019 MPRE DATES & DEADLINES

The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), developed by NCBE, is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice examination that is administered three times per year.

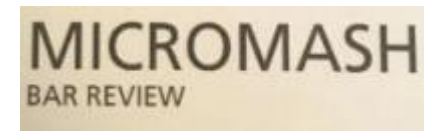
Regular Registration Deadline Fee: \$125	Late Registration Deadline Fee: \$220	2019 Test Date
JANUARY 24	JANUARY 31	MARCH 23
JUNE 13	JUNE 20	AUGUST 10
SEPTEMBER 19	SEPTEMBER 26	NOVEMBER 9

 To register or for more information, visit www.ncbex.org/mpre.

Copyright © 2018 National Conference of Bar Examiners

Bar Review Courses

- Adaptibar
- Barbri
- Kaplan
- MicroMash
- Practising Law Institute
- Themis



Diploma Privilege

- **Deadlines: if you miss the final deadline altogether, you will forfeit the opportunity to apply for Diploma Privilege and will have to sit for the Wisconsin Bar Examination**



<https://media.giphy.com/media/10HIL8hzxN2QXDrYk/giphy.gif>

December Grads:

Timely deadline is July 15 / late deadline is February 1

May Grads:

Timely deadline is December 15 / late deadline is July 1

August Grads:

Timely deadline is March 15 / late deadline is October 1

Diploma Privilege Continued...

- Cost
 - Timely = \$210
 - Late = \$410
- Filing is completed on the date a properly executed application and applicable fees are received at the BBE office
- Instructions must be read and exactly followed for an application to be considered filed

Diploma Privilege Continued...

- Do you have an issue that you think may affect your bar application?
- The Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners is good at answering application questions quickly - (608) 266-9760
- The Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) is a member service of the State Bar of Wisconsin which provides confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and their families - (800) 543-2625
- Some other jurisdictions offer similar services, check out their state bar websites.

Final Works of Advice

- Start the application process early – it takes time to track everything down!
- Don't give up – you could well be on the road to passing the exam – don't leave!
 - They've checked tests of people who gave up. Many were passing up to the point the left.
- Try to relax!

