

# Esquire Bound

## Your Checklist for Admission to Practice and Bar Exam Success

### Admission via Bar Exam – Part 1

September 17, 2023

# How do I become a licensed attorney?

(Seeking Admission to the Bar)

# Pathways to Bar Admission

- Admission by Bar Examination
  - Our main focus today
  - You need to do this at least once!
- Admission by Score Transfer
  - Especially relevant for UBE Jurisdictions
- Admission by Reciprocity
  - Procedure by which a practicing attorney in one jurisdiction can be admitted to practice in another jurisdiction without taking the bar exam
  - Not available in all jurisdictions
  - Must take and pass at least one bar exam
- Diploma privilege

# Admission by Examination

For applicants to be admitted to practice by examination, applicants must:

- Submit the necessary **application form(s) and fee(s)** to the jurisdiction
- Sit for and take the **bar exam** in that jurisdiction
- Satisfy the jurisdiction's **character and fitness** and **other admission requirements** (e.g.: MPRE)
- Complete any **jurisdiction-specific law component(s)** required

# What is the Bar Examination?

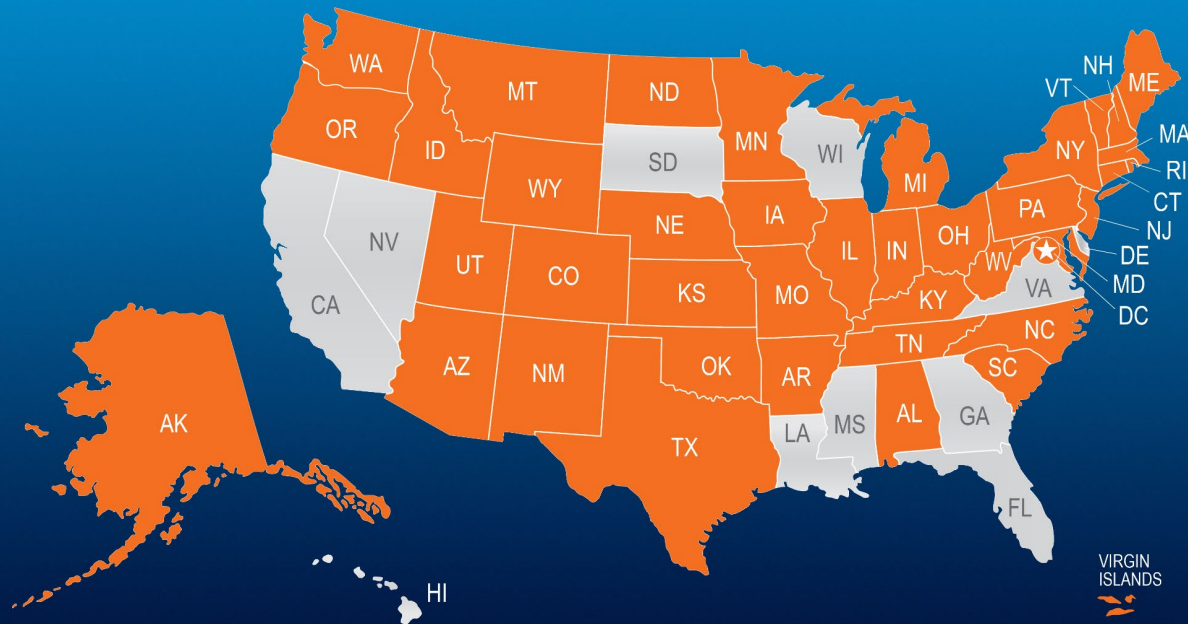
- A test of minimal competence
  - Average minimum pass score approximately 65%-70%
- Multi-day, closed-book examination to test your ability to think and reason like a lawyer
  - Typically administered during the last week of July and/or February
- Tests the black letter law
- Does not test:
  - Specific case law
  - Policy considerations

# Types of Bar Exams

- Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) – <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube>
  - E.g.: PA, NJ
- UBE & Additional Jurisdiction-Specific Requirements
  - E.g.: NY
- Jurisdiction-Specific Exams
  - E.g.: CA, FL, DE

# Jurisdictions that Have Adopted the UBE

(as of November 7, 2022)\*



\*Michigan will begin administering the UBE for the first time in February 2023.

# What is the UBE?

- Uniformly administered and scored bar exam that results in portable score
- Bar candidates who take the UBE may transfer their scores to seek admission in other UBE jurisdictions within a certain amount of time after the scores were earned
- Administered twice per year
  - Last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July

# UBE Test Components

- Multistate Performance Test (MPT)
  - Two 90-minute “closed universe” assignments: simulated case files testing fundamental lawyering skills
- Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)
  - Six 30-minute essays
- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)
  - 200-question multiple-choice exam

# UBE Test Day Schedules

- Tuesday Sessions
  - MPT (2 items, 3 hours)
  - MEE (6 essays, 3 hours)
- Wednesday Sessions
  - MBE (100 questions, 3 hours)
  - MBE (100 questions, 3 hours)

# Do I need to take the bar exam?

- Yes if:
  - You have a job offer in hand that requires you to be admitted to practice law
- No if:
  - You do not plan on practicing law
  - You have an alternative career or JD Advantage job offer in hand

# When do I need to take the bar exam?

- The first administration after graduation from law school
  - July for most graduates
- Reasons to defer taking the bar exam to a subsequent administration
  - Working full-time in a job that does not require you to be admitted to practice
    - E.g.: law-related job, non-law-related job, judicial clerkship
  - External Obligations/Responsibilities
  - Burnout
  - Insufficient time to prepare for the exam adequately

# Where to Take the Bar Exam: Things to Consider

- Post-Grad Employment
  - Employment requirements
  - State v. Federal work
- Long-Term Goals
  - Where do you want to live and/or work?
- Minimum Pass Score (i.e.: "cut score")
  - Relevant when considering among UBE Jurisdictions
- Other Avenues to Bar Admission

# **Application for Admission**

# Application Deadlines and Fees

- Check with your jurisdiction's governing body for bar admissions for relevant deadlines, fees, and requirements
- Application fees can be costly!
  - Fees may increase with later deadlines
  - Additional fees for computer-based testing, transferring MPRE scores, etc.

# Upcoming PA Bar Exam Dates/Application Availability

Exam	Dates of Exam	Expected Application Availability
February 2024	Tue. February 27th - Wed. February 28th	September 1, 2023
July 2024	Tue. July 30th - Wed. July 31st	January 3, 2024
February 2025	Tue. February 25th - Wed. February 26th	September 1, 2024

# PA Bar Application Deadlines/Fees

## Application for Permission to Sit for the Pennsylvania Bar Examination and for Character and Fitness Determination under Pa.B.A.R. 203/205

Application deadlines and filing fees for the bar exam. The following deadlines are POSTMARK deadlines.

<u>Filing Deadline</u>	<u>February Exam</u>	<u>July Exam</u>	<u>Applicant Fee</u>
Timely	October 30	April 15	\$650.00
First Late	November 15	April 30	\$800.00
Second Late	November 30	May 15	\$1,100.00
Final	December 15	May 30	\$1,500.00

# PA Bar Exam Computer Based Testing (CBT) Fees

<u>CBT Fees and Deadlines</u>		
Timely	CBT request & fee submitted with bar application	<b>\$115.00</b>
Late	CBT request and/or fee submitted after bar application	<b>\$165.00</b> Accompanied with an <u>Amendment Form</u>
Final	CBT request and fee must be sent and postmarked <b>February exam: January 6</b> <b>July exam: June 6</b> No CBT submissions will be accepted after the final deadline	<b>\$165.00</b> Accompanied with an <u>Amendment Form</u>

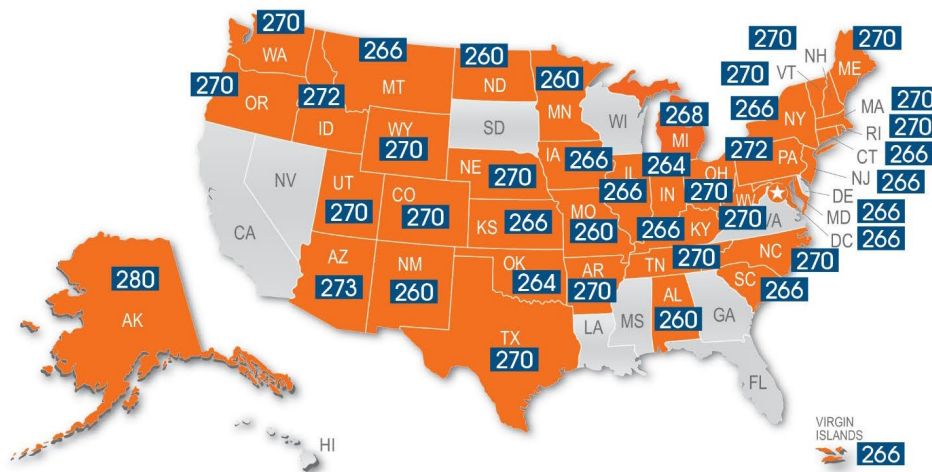
# Local Jurisdictions: Websites

Pennsylvania	New Jersey	Delaware	New York
<a href="#"><u>PA Application for Bar Exam</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NJ Bar Application</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>DE Bar Application</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NY Bar Information Guide</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>PABOLE Fees &amp; Deadlines</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NJBOLE Fees &amp; Deadlines</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Forms Library</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>UBE/NYLC/NYLE FAQs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Testing Accommodations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>FAQs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>FAQs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NYBOLE Dates &amp; Deadlines</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Testing Accommodations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Testing Accommodations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NYLC/NYLE Course Materials &amp; Questions</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Testing Accommodations</u></a>

# Admission by Score Transfer

- Passing score in jurisdiction required
  - Even if your score wasn't high enough to "pass" where you sat for the exam
- Need an **official UBE transcript** from NCBE to be sent to the jurisdiction
- Still need to submit the necessary application form(s) and fee(s), satisfy the character and fitness and other admissions requirements, and complete any jurisdiction-specific law component(s) for the jurisdiction

# Minimum Passing UBE Scores



**260**

Alabama  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
New Mexico  
North Dakota

**264**

Indiana  
Oklahoma

**266**

Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Maryland  
Montana  
New Jersey  
New York  
South Carolina  
Virgin Islands

**268**

Michigan

**270**

Arkansas  
Colorado  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
Nebraska  
New Hampshire  
North Carolina  
Ohio  
Oregon  
Rhode Island  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wyoming

**272**

Idaho  
Pennsylvania

**273**

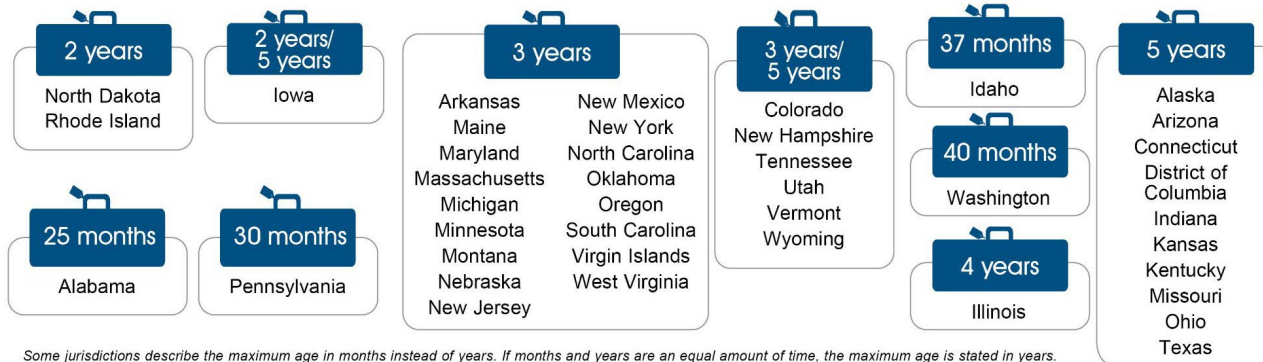
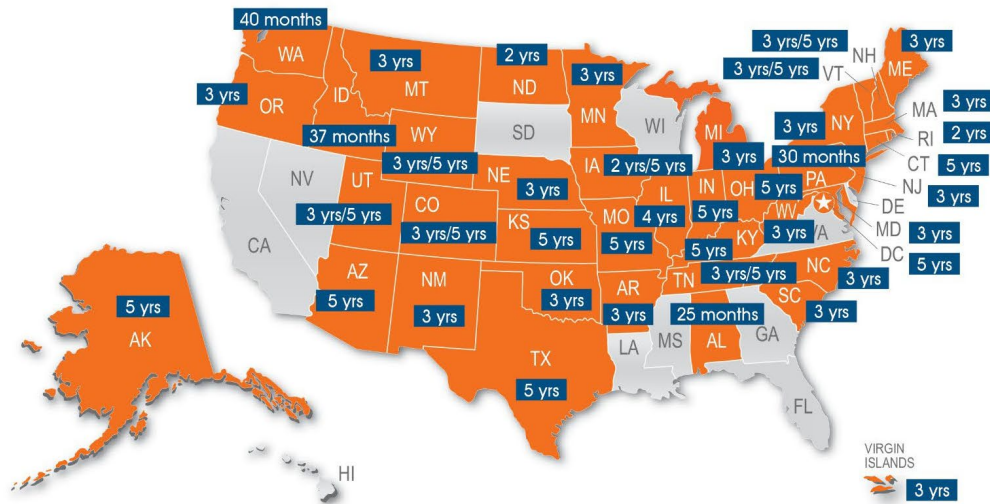
Arizona

**280**

Alaska

A score that does not meet the minimum passing score in the testing jurisdiction may be portable to another jurisdiction if the score is at or above the level required in the receiving jurisdiction.

## Maximum Age of Transferred UBE Scores



*Some jurisdictions describe the maximum age in months instead of years. If months and years are an equal amount of time, the maximum age is stated in years.*

# Fall 2023 Esquire Bound Series Events

- **October 1st:** Admission by Bar Exam – Part 2
- **October 15th:** Tools to Tackle the Bar Exam
- **October 29th:** Course Planning for the Bar Exam
- **November 12th:** Winter Break Review and To-Do
- **November 26th:** Bar Exam & Application Help Desk

