

Esquire Bound

Your Checklist for Admission to Practice and Bar Exam Success

Mechanics of Bar Application; Character & Fitness

February 18, 2024

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.

Bar Application: When to Complete

- Pennsylvania: now (first deadline April 15th)
- New Jersey: March 1st (first deadline March 31st)
- New York: March 1st (deadline March 31st)
 - No Character & Fitness Question for this application
- Delaware: now (first deadline April 2nd)

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

Local Jurisdictions: Websites

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

Character & Fitness

Overview of Character & Fitness

- Demonstration of character and fitness is among the essential elements required for bar admission
- Background investigations are part of the admission process for all jurisdictions
- Requirements, deadlines, and processing times vary among jurisdictions
 - Get familiar with your jurisdiction's requirements!
- Primary purpose: to protect the public
- Onus is on applicant to prove good moral character
- Candor is paramount

Character & Fitness: General Guidelines

- Answer the questions asked
- When in doubt, disclose
- Do your due diligence

Character & Fitness: Mistakes to Avoid

- Not knowing your jurisdiction's instructions
 - Read the instructions and questions carefully
- Starting late
 - Make sure you leave enough time to complete the application to submit it by the deadline
- Not providing or withholding important information
 - When in doubt, disclose
 - Mistake or misremembering is not an excuse: amend and supplement as necessary
- Not addressing issues in addendums
- Submitting incomplete information
 - Be thorough and start early
- Not preparing to provide more or supplemental information

Character & Fitness: Prior Misconduct

- Evidence of Rehabilitation: most critical factors
- Elements considered in establishing rehabilitation include:
 - passage of time since the misconduct to demonstrate rehabilitation;
 - absence of misconduct in the intervening time since the misconduct;
 - candor and remorsefulness of the applicant before the Board;
 - acceptance of responsibility for and renunciation of past misconduct;
 - lack of malice and ill feeling toward those who disclosed the misconduct or initiated proceedings related to it;
 - affirmative recommendations for admission to the bar from those aware of the misconduct;
 - productive use of one's time for the benefit of society;
 - good reputation for professional ability, where applicable;
 - personal assurances, supported by corroborating evidence, of an intention to conduct oneself in an exemplary fashion in the future;
- For more examples and information, see [PABOLE Information on Evidence of Rehabilitation](#)

Spring 2024 Esquire Bound Series Events

- **February 25th:** Creating your Bar Study Plan; Virtual Help Desk to follow
- **March 31st:** Bar Prep Panel with Recent Graduates; Virtual Help Desk to follow
- **April 14th:** Bar Exam Help Desk and AMA

