

Esquire Bound

Your Checklist for Admission to Practice and Bar Exam Success

Admission to Practice: Overview of the Bar Exam

September 15, 2024

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?

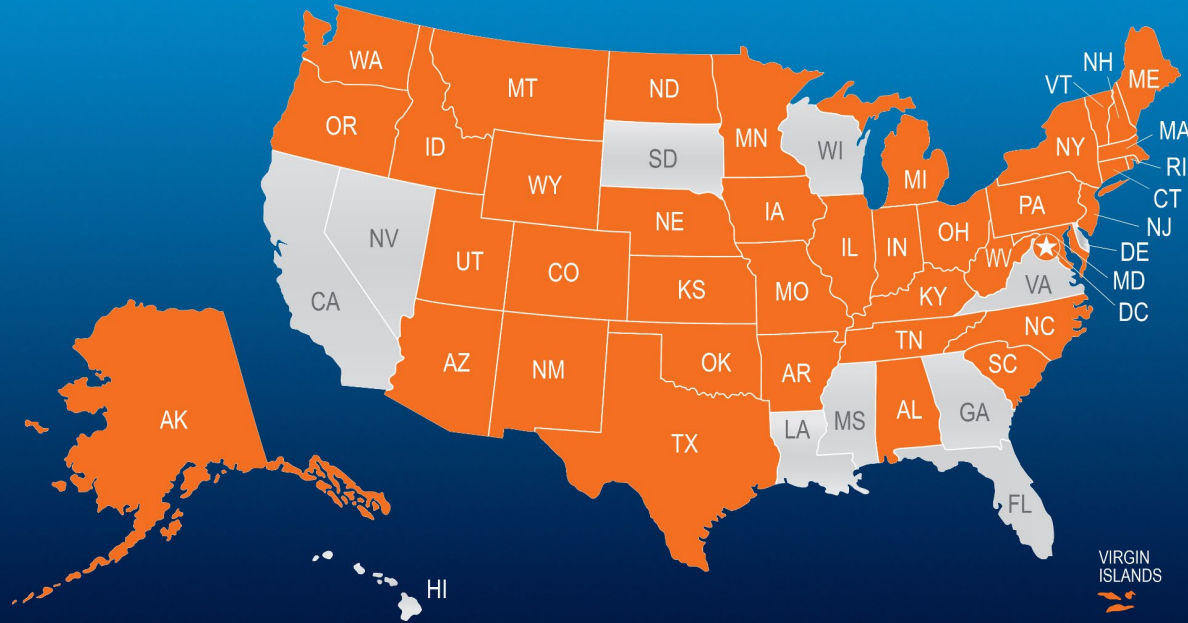
- A test of minimal competence
 - Average minimum pass score approximately 65%-70%
- Multi-day, closed-book examination to test your ability to think and reason like a lawyer
 - Typically administered during the last week of July and/or February
- Tests the black letter law
- Does not test:
 - Specific 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
July 2025	Tue. July 29th - Wed. July 30th	January 2, 2025

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>

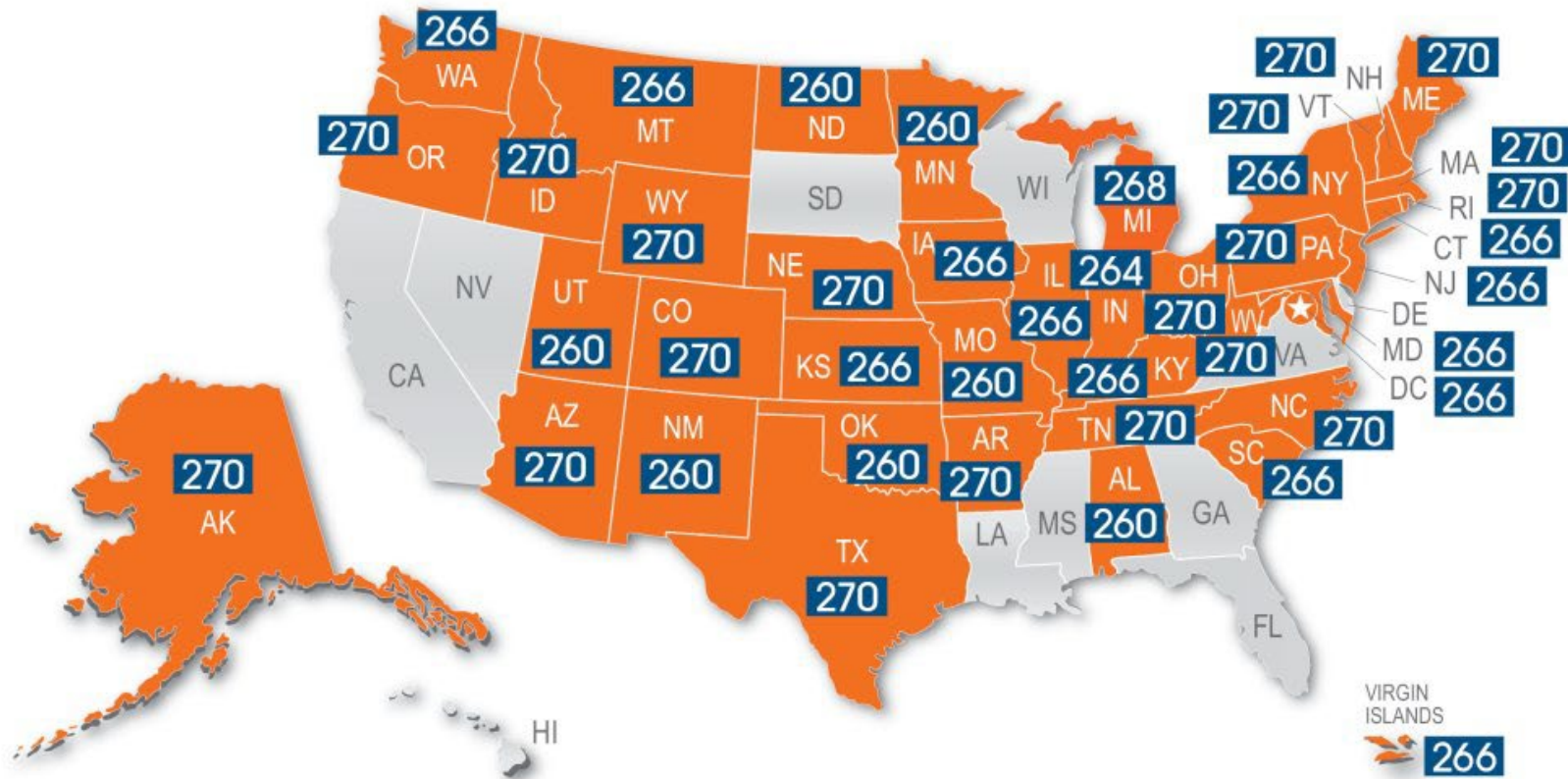
Local Jurisdictions: Websites

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 Fees & Deadlines</u>	<u>NJBOLE Fees & Deadlines</u>	<u>Forms Library</u>	<u>UBE/NYLC/NYLE FAQs</u>
<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>FAQs</u>	<u>FAQs</u>	<u>NYBOLE Dates & Deadlines</u>
	<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>NYLC/NYLE Course Materials & Questions</u>
			<u>Testing Accommodations</u>

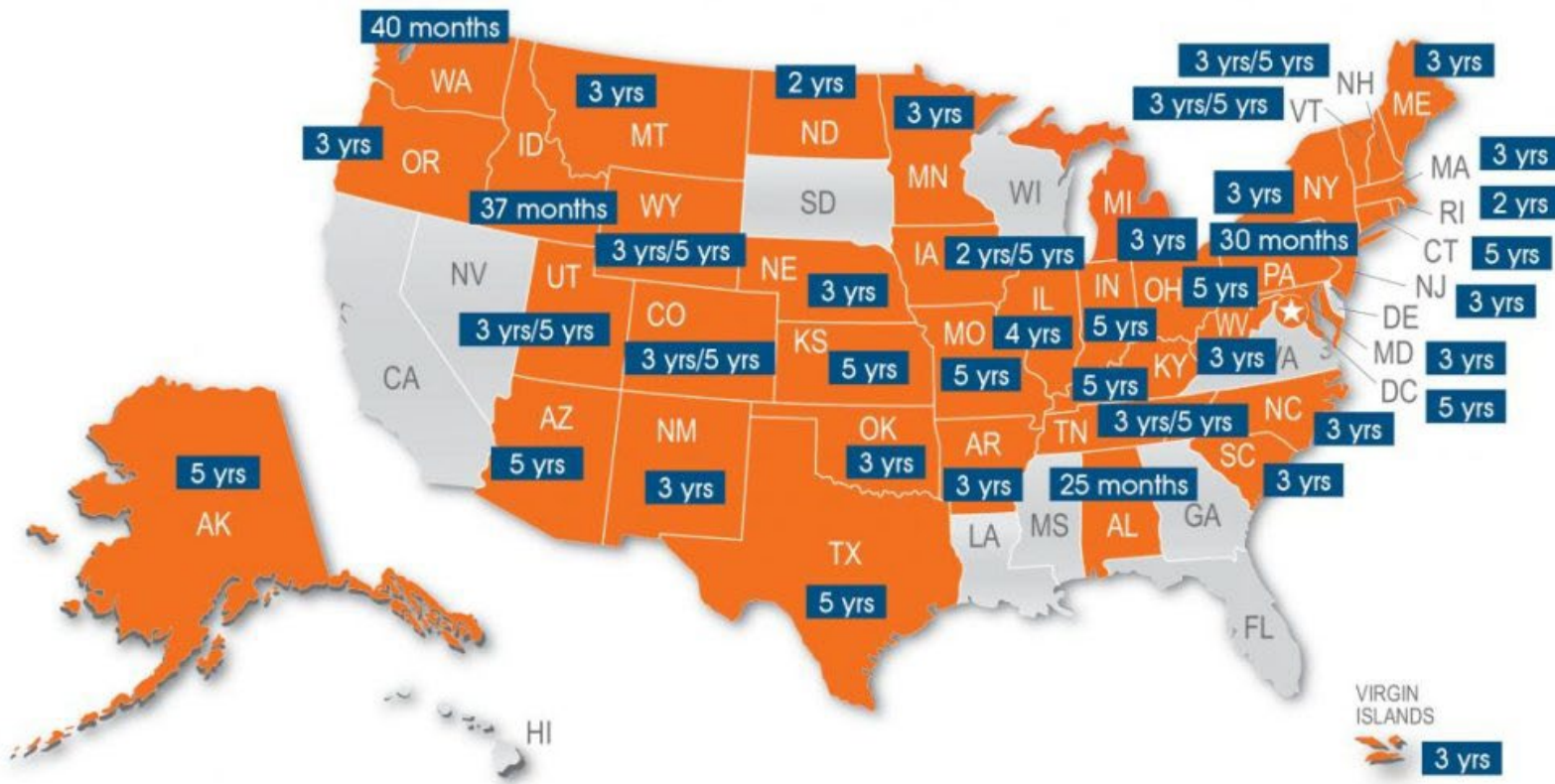
Admission by Score Transfer

- 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

UBE: Minimum Passing Score



UBE: Maximum Age of Transferred UBE Score



Fall 2024 Esquire Bound Series Events

- ~~September 15th: Admission to Practice: Overview of the Bar Exam~~
- **September 29th: Admission to Practice: Other Requirements**
- **October 13th: Planning for the Bar Exam: Courses, Schedules, and More**
- **November 10th: Tools to Tackle the Bar Exam: Essential Study Tools and Resources**

