



RESOURCES ON BAR EXAMINATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements is the annual NCBE/ABA guide to admission to state bars. Print copies are available in the law library's reference room at call number KF302.A15 C66 (2008 is the most recent). An online version is available at the NCBE website at: http://www.ncbex.org/fileadmin/mediafiles/downloads/Comp_Guide/CompGuide.pdf.

National Conference of Bar Examiners is the organization that produces the multistate bar examinations. Their main web page is at <http://www.ncbex.org/>. Their web site contains information on the four multi-state exams (MBE, MEE, MPT, and MPRE). The site contains maps detailing which states require which multistate exams, descriptions of the exams, test dates, sample questions and suggestions for study aids. The study aids listed on the web site are also available in the law library.

BAR/BRI Digest provides an overview of both multistate and individual state bar exams. It provides a description of the format and subject coverage of the exams and information on passage rates. Print copies are available in the Law Library's Reference Room at call number KF303.B3. A major commercial provider of bar review services, BAR/BRI's web site can be accessed at <http://www.barbri.com/>.

Hein's State Bar Examinations is a microfiche collection of the essay questions released by state bar examiner's offices. The coverage of this collection is 1985 to date. The compilation does not contain every exam, for every year, for every state because obtaining permission from some states to reprint their questions is often difficult. It remains, however, the single best source for these exam questions. *Hein's State Bar Examinations* is located in the Government Documents/Microform room on the library's floor three. The microfiche can be found in cabinet 26B drawer E.

MULTISTATE BAR EXAM

The web site of the **National Conference of Bar Examiners** (<http://www.ncbex.org>) contains information on the four multistate exams (MBE, MEE, MPRE, and MPT) that they author. The four tests provided by the NCBE are:

[The Multistate Bar Examination \(MBE\)](#) — a six-hour, 200 question (of which 190 are scored) multiple-choice examination covering contracts, torts, constitutional law, criminal law, evidence, and real property. This test is required by 48 of the 50 state bar exams and also the District of Columbia. The exam is administered by participating jurisdictions on the last Wednesday in February and the last Wednesday in July of each year. Applicants should contact the jurisdiction where admission is being sought to ascertain whether the MBE is part of the jurisdiction's examination.

[The Multistate Essay Examination \(MEE\)](#) — a three-hour, six-question (nine are offered) essay

examination covering Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates (Decedents' Estates; Trusts and Future Interests), and Uniform Commercial Code (Commercial Paper (Negotiable Instruments); Secured Transactions). Some questions may include issues in more than one area of law. Jurisdictions will be able to select the specific questions they wish to administer for each examination. It is administered by participating jurisdictions on the Tuesday before the last Wednesday in February and July of each year.

The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) — is a sixty question, two-hour and five minute, multiple-choice examination administered three times each year. It is required for admission to the bars of all, but three US jurisdictions. The **MPRE Information Book** provides a description of the content, sample questions, and guidelines for taking the exam as well as application information.

The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) — consists of two 90-minute skills questions covering legal analysis, fact analysis, problem solving, resolution of ethical dilemmas, organization and management of a lawyering task, and communication.

Note: Most states require only one or two of these multistate examinations. The site (<http://www.ncbex.org>) contains charts detailing which states require which multistate exams, descriptions of the exams, and suggestions for study aids.

STUDY AIDS FOR THE MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATIONS

Print Study Aids

The law library has a variety of print study aids for the multistate bar exams, including all of the study aids listed on the web site of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (<http://www.ncbex.org>). Among the study aids that are available in the **Reserve** collection at the library's circulation desk are:

Darrow-Kleinhaus, Suzanne. *The Bar Exam in a Nutshell*. St.Paul, MN: West, 2003. KF303 .D37 2003.

Miller, Wentworth. *The Legal Essay Exam Writing Primer*. Sewickley, PA: LEEWS, 2003. KF303 .M55 2003.

Myths and Facts About the Multistate Bar Examination. Madison, WI: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2001. KF303 .M98 2001.

National Conference of Bar Examiners. *MBE Information Booklet: Multistate Bar Examination*. Chicago, Ill.: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2007. KF303 .M34 2007.

_____. *MBE Sample Questions II & III*. Iowa City, Iowa: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2002, KF303 .M36 2002.

_____. *The MEE Information Booklet: Multistate Essay*

Examination. Chicago, IL: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2007. KF303 .M43 2007.

_____. *The MPT Multistate Performance Test: Information Booklet*. Chicago, IL: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2007. KF303 .M65 2007.

_____. *MPTs and Point Sheets*. Chicago, IL: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2008. KF303 .M82 2008.

_____. *The MPRE Information Booklet*. Iowa City, IA: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2007. KF303 .M63 2007.

_____. *MPRE Sample Questions VI*. Iowa City, Iowa: National Conference of Bar Examiners, 2002, KF303 .M56 2002.

_____. *The MPRE, Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination: Sample Questions V*. Chicago, IL: National Conference of Bar Examiners, c1998. KF303 .M56 1998

Riebe, Denise. *Pass The Bar*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2006. KF303 .R54 2006.

Rigos Bar Review Series, *Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) Review*. Frederick, MD: Aspen Pub., 2008. KF303 .M85

Rigos Bar Review Series, *Multistate Performance Test (MPT) Review*. Frederick, MD: Aspen Pub., 2008. KF303 .M855

Rudman, Michael P. *New Rudman's Questions and Answers on the MBE*. Syosset, NY: National Learning Corp., 2002. KF303 .R825 2002.

Talamo, John. 2002. *Mastering the MBE: Test-Taking Strategies for Scoring High on the Multistate Bar Exam*. Naperville, IL: Sphinx Pub, 2002. KF303 .T35 2002.

Walton, Kimm. *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE: Multistate Bar Exam*. New York: Aspen Law & Business, 2003. KF303 .S773 2003.

Web-Based Study Aids.

AdaptiBar is a fee-based Internet service designed to prepare students specifically for the MBE. <http://www.adaptibar.com/default.asp>.

CALI Exercises. CALI (<http://lessons.cali.org/catalog.html>) publishes over 690 computer-based lessons in over 33 different legal subject areas. The lessons use a variety of formats and methods for teaching doctrine, analysis and critical thinking skills. CALI exercises are an excellent way to reinforce classroom instruction. The lessons help you get accustomed to taking multiple-choice examinations and provide feedback to your answers. However, CALI exercises are not designed to simulate the MBE. CALI exercises are meant to be self-paced tutorials; the MBE questions are very focused in content and designed to be answered in a time-sensitive environment. The web-

based CALI lessons can be accessed without password on any computers in the law school. To access these lessons remotely, a password (available from the law library at 202-319-5156) is needed.

MPRE Sample Exam the National Conference of Bar Examiners has a free sample exam available online at <http://www.ncbex2.org/php/mpre>. This exam only will score right or wrong and will explain the answers to the questions.

The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) – seven sample essay questions are available free at <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mee/>

MyBarPrep is a fee-based Internet service designed to prepare students specifically for the multi-state bar exam.

<http://www.mybarprep.com/MBP/home.html?/MBP/home.html~mainFrame>

MARYLAND BAR EXAMINATION

Of the four multistate examinations, Maryland requires the MBE (the Multistate Bar Examination) and the MPT (Multistate Performance Test). The Maryland exam has a first day comprised of ten essay questions and one MPT question, and a second day comprised of the MBE.

Maryland Board of Bar Examiners

This site (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/>) provides information on the Maryland bar examination, including application forms, admission rules, and other details.

It also contains a “Description and Tips” document on taking the essay exam (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/pdfs/gbtips.pdf>) and a similar document on taking the multistate exam (MBE) (<http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/pdfs/gbmulti.pdf>).

Maryland Bar Examination:

This site http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/examques_ans.html contains recent Maryland essay exam questions, an analysis of the questions from the board of examiners, and representative “good” answers. Older exams (1998-2006) are available at (http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/examques_ans_archive.html).

The Maryland essay examination covers the following subjects: agency, commercial transactions, corporations, family law, Maryland civil procedure, partnerships, professional responsibility, and all of the MBE subjects.

VIRGINIA BAR EXAMINATION

Virginia requires the MBE (the Multistate Bar Examination) and the MPRE (the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination) and an essay exam. The web site for the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners (<http://www.vbbe.state.va.us/>) contains a variety of information on its bar examination, including the Board's Rules (<http://www.vbbe.state.va.us/barrules.html>).

The Board does not publish exam questions on their web site nor do they provide model answers. However, Virginia bar exam essay questions from 1995 to date are available on the George Mason University Law Library web site: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/law/academics/bar-va.html>. They provide the questions only; there are no sample answers.

The essay examination covers the following topics: agency, conflict of laws, constitutional law, contracts, corporations, creditor's rights, criminal law and procedure, domestic relations, equity, evidence, federal practice and procedure, local government law, partnerships, personal property, professional responsibility, real property, sales, suretyship, taxation, torts, trusts, Uniform Commercial Code, Virginia pleading, practice and procedure in law and equity (including appellate practice), wills and estate administration.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EXAMINATION

The main web site for admission to practice in D.C. is located at http://www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/membership/prospective_members/index.cfm.

Admission to practice is regulated by Rule 46 of the D.C. Court of Appeals (www.dcca.state.dc.us/dccourts/docs/rule46b_admission_by_examination_rev.pdf). D.C. requires the MBE, MPT, MPRE, and the MEE (Multistate Essay Exam). The essay examination may cover any of the following topics: administrative law, contracts, agency, Uniform Commercial Code, equity, business associations, conflicts of laws, evidence, torts, wills, trusts, administration of estates, family law, real and personal property, civil and criminal procedure, constitutional law, criminal law, legal ethics, and tax law.

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