GENERAL INFORMATION

**Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements, 2004** is the current edition of this annual ABA guide to admission to state bars. Print copies are available in the law library’s reference room at call number KF302.A15 C66. An abbreviated version is available at the ABA website at [http://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html](http://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html).

**National Conference of Bar Examiners** is the organization that produces the multistate bar examinations. Their main web page is at [http://www.ncbex.org/](http://www.ncbex.org/). Their web site contains information on the four multi-state exams (MBE, MEE, MPT, and MPRE). The site ([http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm](http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm)) contains charts detailing which states require which multistate exams, descriptions of the exams, and suggestions for study aids. The study aids listed on the web site are 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/](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. Because of the difficulties in obtaining permissions from some states to reprint their questions, not every exam, for every year, for every state is in the compilation. 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 28, drawer A.

MULTISTATE BAR EXAM

The web site of the **National Conference of Bar Examiners** ([http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm](http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm)) 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, two-hundred question 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 Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)** — a three-hour, six-question essay examination covering agency and partnership, commercial paper, conflict of laws,
corporations, decedents' estates, family law, federal civil procedure, sales, secured transactions, and trusts and future interests.

**The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** — a fifty question, two-hour, multiple-choice examination administered three times each year.

**The Multistate Performance Test (MPT)** — three 90-minute skills questions covering legal analysis, fact analysis, problem solving, resolution of ethical dilemmas, organization and management of a lawyering task, and communication. Most states require only one or two of these multistate examinations. The site ([http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm](http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm)) 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/tests.htm](http://www.ncbex.org/tests.htm)). The following link will take you to *Columbo*, the law library’s online catalog, and will show you its holdings of MBE materials: ([http://columbo.law.cua.edu/search/X?SEARCH=multistate+and+bar&l=&g=&b=&m=&SORT=A&Da=&Db=](http://columbo.law.cua.edu/search/X?SEARCH=multistate+and+bar&l=&g=&b=&m=&SORT=A&Da=&Db=)). (Click “Search” when the search screen appears in Columbo).

Among the study aids available in the reserve collection of the law library are:


Web-Based Study Aids.

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

PLI Multistate Exam Course is another fee-based preparation program for the MBE. The Practising Law Institute’s computer-based Multistate Bar Exam Course features full-streaming video lectures, PDF textbooks and practice questions. http://www.mbe.pli.edu/.

CALI Exercises. CALI (http://lessons.cali.org/catalog.html) publishes over 150 computer-based tutorials in over 20 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.

MARYLAND BAR EXAMINATION

Of the four multistate examinations, Maryland requires only the MBE (the Multistate Bar Examination). In addition to the MBE, the Maryland exam has a second day of essay questions.

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/gbhtips.pdf) and a similar document on taking the multistate exam (MBE) (http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/gbmulti5-00.pdf).

Maryland Bar Examination: 1998-2004
This site (http://www.courts.state.md.us/ble/examques&ans.html) contains Maryland essay exam questions, an analysis of the questions from the board of examiners, and representative “good” answers. 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 website 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/VBBE_Rules11_2001Ver.pdf).

The Board does not publish exam questions on their website nor do they provide model answers. However, Virginia bar exam essay questions from 1995 to date are available on the George Mason Law Library website: 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 website for admission to practice in D.C. is located at http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/membership/prospective_members/special_legal_consultant/instructions.cfm. Admission to practice is regulated by Rule 46 of the D.C. Court of Appeals (www.abanet.org/cpr/jclr/flc_dc.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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON TAKING THE BAR EXAMINATION

“Passing the Bar” (http://academic.udayton.edu/legaled/barpass/General/) is a website that describes itself as providing “advice to law students and recent law school graduates on preparing for the bar including advice on how to take bar essay exams and multiple choice exams.” The site is offered by Prof. Vernellia Randall of the University of Dayton School of Law.

PassTheBar.Com (http://pw1.netcom.com/~sfpearce/passindex.html) is a website for bar tutor Scott Pearce. It contains a sampling of his outlines and suggestions for taking bar exams.

Bar Exam Central (http://www.law.com/special/students/barexam/index.html) provides a useful list of information on the bars of all states, links to each state’s bar examiner office, and
information on pass rates.

**Bar Exam/Bar Admission Jurist** (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/barexam.htm) is a comprehensive web site on bar examinations. It includes some links to web-based study sites. It also provides organized links to all state bars including their bar admission rules, bar exam rules, the results of recent exams, and (where available) past exam questions.

**ARTICLES AND STUDIES ON BAR PASSAGE AND LEGAL EDUCATION**

AALS. Committee on Bar Admissions and Lawyer Performance. *AALS Survey of Law Schools On Programs and Courses Designed to Enhance Bar Examination Performance.*


Cooper, Cynthia L. “Brace Yourself for the Bar Exam.” 31 *Student Lawyer* 14 (February 2003).


Morgan, Richard J. “Should Focus be on Preparing for the Bar Exam or Future Professional Roles?” 11 Nevada Lawyer 36 (June 2003).


Shaw, Lori. “Often Overlooked, the MPRE Presents Another Challenge to Bar Admission.” 31 Student Lawyer 9 (February 2003).


