

Bridge to the Bar - 1/3/2022

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To: Rachel Paras <parasr@stjohns.edu>



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW



Bridge
to the
Bar

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from mistakes." - Gen. Colin Powell

Dear Students,

Please read this email carefully and in its entirety.

I hope you all enjoyed a little down time over the holidays and happy New Year! I write with updates about information for bar prep for February 21-22, 2023.

BAR EXAM REGISTRATION, EXAM DAY PROCEDURES, AND TEST SITES REVEALED

Registration for the February 2023 administration of the NYS Bar exam closed on November 30, 2022, so you should be fully registered and preparing for the exam.

[Note that the New York Board of Law Examiners \(BOLE\) has released the February bar exam test sites:](#)

FEBRUARY 2023 BAR EXAMINATION TEST SITES

The February 21-22, 2023 New York State Bar Examination will be administered in-person at the test sites located below.

In accordance with Board Rule 6000.8 applicants shall be assigned to a test center in one of the four judicial departments located in New York State. Test center assignments will be based on availability and on a first come, first serve basis. No applicant is guaranteed a seat in any particular city or test center, even if the applicant lives or attended law school in that city. All applicants will be sent an email about six to seven weeks prior to the date of the bar examination containing a link instructing the applicant to select and confirm their preferred location (Albany, Buffalo, New York City or Long Island). The February 2023 exam will NOT be administered in White Plains. First-time applicants who graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from a New York State law school will be given priority to select their location. Only locations with available seats will be listed in the email. Once a location is filled, it will no longer appear in the list of locations in the email. If your preferred location does not appear in the email you must select from the locations that appear at the time that you access the link. The Board will not maintain a wait list for any location.

ALBANY

Albany Capital Center
55 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

BUFFALO

Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center
153 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

NEW YORK CITY

Armory Track & Field Center
216 Fort Washington Avenue at West 168 Street
New York, NY 10032

LONG ISLAND

Long Island Marriott Hotel
101 James Doolittle Boulevard
Uniondale, NY 11553

BAR EXAM FAQs & GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDE FROM BOLE

Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions and General Information Guide on the BOLE website located [here](#) which was updated on October 28, 2022. The answers to many administrative and exam-day questions are in this guide and it is extremely helpful.

BAR PREP CANVAS PAGE

I have invited everyone who is taking the February 2023 bar exam to the Bar Prep Canvas page which is chock full of supplemental study materials, videos, workshops, and information. If you have not received a Canvas invitation from me, please email me directly and I will add you.

****BELOW IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT APPEARED IN PREVIOUS BRIDGE-TO-THE-BAR EMAILS BUT BEARS REPEATING****

ON-CAMPUS ROOMS FOR BAR STUDY

If you are looking for quiet study space as you prepare for the bar exam, Dean Selby and Joshua LaPorte are happy to have alumni studying in the law library. Please reach out to SJULawCirculation@gmail.com so they can make sure students have the access they need.

BAR PREP STUDY AIDS IN THE LAW LIBRARY

Many of you have asked about study aids in addition to the materials you received from your commercial bar pre courses. Please note that the law library has 3 sets of the CriticalPass MBE flash cards for check out. Students can borrow one subject at a time, or several subjects at once. You can see them at this link: <https://lawlibrary.stjohns.edu/record=b1659755>

There are also a number of Bar Exam Success resources in the West Academic Study Aids Collection. Here is a link to those resources to which you should all have access: <https://subscription-westacademic.com.jerome.stjohns.edu/Search?subjectFilter=15&sort=document-views>.

The West Academic Study Aids Collection will also have subject-specific study aids on the platform that might be helpful.

If you need any help finding these materials or with any other questions, you can always stop by the library or email Dean Selby selbyc@stjohns.edu or Joshua LaPorte laportej@stjohns.edu and they will be able to assist you.

SOME STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFULLY PREPARING FOR THE BAR EXAM

I encourage you to look at the Subject Breakout Slide posted on Canvas under the Wills & Trusts module as you plan your study schedule for upcoming weeks. Note the seven MBE subjects that are certain to appear vs. the additional MEE subjects that may/may not appear when you decide how to spend your time.

Also, if you have not started completing at least one practice MPT per week, you should begin! Morning one of the first day of the bar exam consists of two consecutive MPTs, to be completed within 90 minutes or less each (180 total minutes), and they are worth 20% of your overall score. You do not need to memorize anything to take the MPTs; outside knowledge is, in fact, discouraged. You need only practice, practice, practice and 20% can be yours! If you're asking me – and you are – the MPTs can be the secret weapon to first-time success on the bar.

If you have never taken an MPT or if you have questions about the best approach to taking one, feel free to email me or set up a time to meet with me so we can discuss it.

Reminder that every practice question should be completed without your notes and in timed conditions:

MPTs	90 minutes each
MEEs	30 minutes each
MBEs	1 minute 50 seconds each

CHECK-IN MEETINGS

Please feel free to email me at parasr@stjohns.edu to set up a time to meet to discuss any bar-related questions you have as you prepare. Note that the law school will be closed December 23, 2022, until January 3, 2023, but I am free before and after those dates.

WELLNESS SUPPORT RESOURCES

As much as we want to see you pass the bar exam, we are also invested in your mental health and wellness. While access to the Counseling Center on campus ends once a student graduates, there are many resources available to you both on campus and off should you need them.

To that end, I have created a “Wellness Support Resources” module on the Bar Prep page, where I have uploaded information and which I will update as necessary. There is also a lot of valuable information on the Online Student Page here: <https://stjlawstudent.com/remote-learning-and-wellness-support/>

I will send reminders about the foregoing and write with updates as bar prep progresses but feel free to reach out to me anytime by email: parasr@stjohns.edu.

Keep working hard and know that we are rooting for you!

Best,

Prof. Rachel R. Paras

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St. John's Law thanks our Bridge to the Bar sponsor, Cary Fields '86HON.

