

Bridge to the Bar - 12/19/2022

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Mon 12/19/2022 1:03 PM

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If you are receiving this email, it is because I have you listed as on-track to take the February 2023 NYS bar exam which will be administered on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 21 & 22. If you are not taking the February 2023 bar exam, please let me know and disregard this email.

“It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop” – Confucius

Dear Students,

Please read this email carefully and in its entirety.

Congratulations to those of you who just completed law school and all your final exams! I write with updates about information for bar prep for February 21-22, 2023.

BAR EXAM REGISTRATION AND EXAM DAY PROCEDURES

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

Note the following from the New York Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) (emphasis added):

“The February 21-22, 2023 administration of the New York Bar Examination will be administered in-person at test sites to be announced by later this fall. There will be no remote option. The exam questions will be in paper question booklets and applicants will be required to answer the MBE questions on the paper scantron answer sheet that will be provided. Applicants may elect to either handwrite or type their essay answers. Applicants will be required to select laptop or handwriting at the time of filing their application for the exam. Laptop applicants will subsequently be required to timely register their computers with the software vendor.

The application filing period for the February 21-22, 2023 bar examination is November 1-30, 2022. Applicants must apply for the bar exam through their “BOLE Account” in the Applicant Services Portal. Any applicant who does not have a BOLE account, should click on BOLE Account in the menu and follow the instructions to create an account. The Board is closely monitoring health and safety mandates and recommendations issued by federal, state and local authorities concerning COVID

19 and recognizes that conditions and protocols may change between now and February 2023.

The Board will make all appropriate modifications to exam procedures as required and recommended by federal, state and local authorities. Depending on the status of the COVID 19 pandemic, candidates for the February 2023 bar exam may be required to present proof of full vaccination (including a booster) or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test and/or may have to wear a mask fully covering their mouth and nose during the exam. Any and all COVID-19 safety and health procedures will be announced closer to the exam. We encourage applicants to monitor this website for further information <https://www.nybarexam.org/>"

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.

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.

Stay safe and healthy over the holiday break. Keep working hard and know that we are rooting for you!

Best,

Prof. Rachel R. Paras

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