

## Kristina Ebanks

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**From:** St. John's School of Law, Student Services <parasr@stjohns.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 11:00 AM  
**To:** Kristina Ebanks  
**Subject:** Bridge to the Bar7-2-23

\* External Email \*



Dear Students,

*“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from mistakes.”*

— Theodore Roosevelt

Last week was a big week! Nearly 200 of you took the mock MBE on campus. And it was great to see so many of you at this past Thursday's final MEE workshop where we covered Agency & Partnership/Conflicts of Laws and continued to discuss essay-writing strategies.

### **LAW SCHOOL ACCESS OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

On Monday, July 3 and Tuesday July 4, students will have access to the building via card reader. The first-floor entrance will be closed to external guests so be sure to have your cards if you plan to come to campus to study.

The library's physical access hours will also be the same as usual over the holiday weekend, including July 3-4, even though the library staff will be off for the holiday.

## BAR EXAM STUDYING STRATEGIES

Please consult the module on the Canvas Bar Prep page entitled, “Bar Exam Studying Strategies & Additional Materials,” which contains a document called, “POST-MBE TIPS” (also embedded here) for you to synthesize your mock MBE results.

**Please read through it as it will help you create your own targeted study plan for the remaining period of bar preparation.**

I have also posted information on **Outlining & Effective Studying** and earlier this week I emailed out a detailed plan called “**July Study Strategies**” (also embedded [here](#)).

All of these documents – and more! – are posted on Canvas.

## JULY WORKSHOPS WITH PROF. PARAS & PROF. RUESCHER – PLEASE RSVP!

The subjects for the “Bar Exam Bootcamp” from July 10 – July 20 in **Rooms 1-13 and 1-15** have been finalized and, for planning purposes, are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning (10:00am-12:15pm)</b>	<b>Afternoon (12:45-2:30pm)</b>
July 10	Civil Procedure MBEs	Civil Procedure Essays
July 11	Real Property MBEs	Real Property MBEs
July 12	MPT Practice	Evidence MBEs
July 13	Torts MBEs	Crim Law/Pro Essay & Wills Essay
July 14	MPT (morning session only)	
July 17	Con Law MBEs	Con Law Essay
July 18	MPT Practice	MPT Practice
July 19	UCC MBEs	UCC Essay

July 20	Four Mixed-Subject Essays	Essay Analysis
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While you do not need to register for the sessions, please [RSVP HERE](#) for the first day, July 10, so we will be sure to have enough copies of the handouts.

### **PROF. PARAS' BAR BANK**

*Be sure to visit the module on the Canvas page entitled “Prof. Paras’ Bar Bank”! I have posted A LOT of outlines for both the MBE & MEE subjects generously provided by former successful bar takers. It is always your job to confirm the law but feel free to use whatever you find helpful and leave the rest.*

I have posted the following information under the “Bar Exam Studying Strategies” module on the Canvas page:

### **SEATS AND SECURITY POLICY FOR THE BAR EXAM**

You should have received an email from BOLE to choose your preferred location for the bar exam. If you did not receive an email, reach out to BOLE directly (518) 453-5990 to make your selection.

*Please read the **Security Policy for the bar exam** carefully and in its entirety [HERE](#) for a list of the required/permitted/prohibited items and conduct.*

### **WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS WITH TANYA**

Because of the holiday this week, there will not be a wellness event with Tanya on Wednesday but she’ll be back next week, July 12.

Bring your own towel or mat!

Feel free to reach out to Tanya directly by email if you have any questions: [weekest@stjohns.edu](mailto:weekest@stjohns.edu).

Please also go [here](#) for a “Guided Breath Meditation Card” from Tanya for those moments when you need to relax for a few minutes while you’re studying.

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

## TIPS ON OUTLINING AND EFFECTIVE STUDYING FOR THE BAR EXAM

Many of you have asked about the best way to outline and study/memorize the material for the bar exam. While I understand that everyone learns differently and is on an individualized timeline with their bar prep courses, here are some useful **general rules**:

1. The goal is to get to the practice assignments as quickly as possible.
2. Outline each subject. Outlines should be no more than 20-25 pages for each subject, **if they are even that long**. These are designed to be useful study tools, not an opportunity for you to re-write every single case and obscure rule you can about each subject.
3. Create a “shorthand list” for each subject. Look on Canvas for the Lingo Lists posted for each MEE subject to see what I mean. Your List should contain all major “terms of art” and concepts for each subject and should be no more than 4 pages long and even shorter for the less dense subjects. These lists will help you figure out in advance which rules you already understand and which you don’t.
4. Avoid slowing down and stopping the lecture videos presented by your bar prep course.
5. Before doing each practice assignment (MBE or essay), review the shorthand/Lingo List for 15-20 minutes first to refresh on the rules.
6. Do each assignment from memory first, under the timed conditions laid out later in this email.
7. After each practice assignment keep track of the rules you do not know it yet, any issues you missed because you either don’t know it or did not spot it, or any MBEs or analysis you got wrong because you thought you knew it, but not quite. Additionally, note the questions you were sure you knew but did not get right because you either mis-read the question or memorized the rule incorrectly in the first instance. Those rules go on your list of rules you need to pay attention to and learn by reading the larger outlines and doing targeted practice, paying attention to the most heavily tested topics first.
8. Review every MBE subject at least once a week. Covering one subject a day is a good guideline.

## REMINDERS ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE BAR

We are now almost halfway through bar prep and many of you have faced requests/demands from friends, family, and employers to attend social functions, holiday gatherings, etc. My advice remains consistent twice a year for both bar exams: if it’s possible to avoid outside distractions on social media, group chats, and extended recreational demands, **please do so and explain to your social circle why preparing for the bar must be your singular focus**. If you simply cannot or do not want to avoid a social or work commitment in June or July, please reach out to me and I will help you adjust your study schedule for the time you may need to take a break if it has not otherwise been built into your personal study plan.

We share your goal of wanting to see you succeed on the bar exam!

## SOME STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFULLY PREPARING FOR THE BAR EXAM

I encourage you to look at the Subject Breakout Slide posted on Canvas under the June 1 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

**\*Budget your time accordingly as you do your practice sets!\***

## 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](mailto:selbyc@stjohns.edu) or Joshua LaPorte [laportej@stjohns.edu](mailto:laportej@stjohns.edu) and they will be able to assist you.

## **BRAIN BOOSTS**

Speaking of WELLNESS, SJU Alum Katie Belfi, Esq., CEM, MCC, who is now a resilience coach and consultant, has created self-care programming specifically designed for bar preppers and she wants SJU students to reap the benefits. You can visit her website and watch the videos here: <https://www.thekatelyst.com/BrainBoostsforBarPrep>

## **OFFICE HOURS**

**I will have office hours for the last time this Wednesday, July 5, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** for anyone who wants to ask any bar-related questions. You can schedule times individually or in small groups up to four students at one time **using the calendar on Canvas** (not Calendly).

**While it is always best if you make an appointment, you can pop by and I'll be happy to help you if I am free.**

## **DINNER!**

We've had an awesome turnout for the bar prep dinners so far! It's been great to see everyone eating, taking a short break from studying, and socializing with each other.

From now until Thursday, July 20, we will be serving dinner on campus each night school is open Mon-Thurs beginning at **6:00pm until app. 7:15pm** for anyone who would like to take a break and get something to eat.

Location: **The Private Dining Room**

## **SUPPLIES FROM PROF. PIPER**

**Need a pencil? Notecards? A personal item? A sugar boost? We got you!**

We know the little things matter. Visit the treat and supply table on the first floor Student Services corridor. Professor Piper keeps it stocked and available during the day.

## **SUMMER LIBRARY ACCESS**

**Please note** that, in addition to the classrooms we have set aside for quiet study space (2-01C, 2-12, 2-16, 2-21, 2-25, 2M-08, and 2M-11), your library swipe card access will continue through the end of the bar exam.

## **ADJUNCTS FOR ESSAY AND MPT PRACTICE**

I am pleased to let you know that we will have three dedicated adjuncts available to you over the summer to help you with essay and MPT writing: Profs. Kathy Simone, Kelly

Alexander, and Violet Cole.

They will be assigned as follows so feel free to reach out to your assigned adjunct at any point:

**JD Students by last name:**

A - L                      Prof. Alexander [alexandk@stjohns.edu](mailto:alexandk@stjohns.edu)  
M – Z                      Prof. Simone     [simonek@stjohns.edu](mailto:simonek@stjohns.edu)

**All LL.M. Students:**

Prof. Cole                 [colec@stjohns.edu](mailto:colec@stjohns.edu)

**SUMMER 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 Summer 2023 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/>

**QUIET ROOM NOT FOR STUDYING**

Tanya Weekes has set aside room 1-08 (behind the library) as a “quiet room” every day from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to decompress and take a break from studying. **Please reach out to Tanya directly by email at [weekest@stjohns.edu](mailto:weekest@stjohns.edu) for information about how to reserve the quiet room.**

I will send reminders and write with updates as bar prep progresses but feel free to reach out to me anytime by email: [parasr@stjohns.edu](mailto:parasr@stjohns.edu).

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

Best,  
Prof. Paras



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