
From: Rachel Paras
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2024 11:37 AM
To: Rachel Paras
Subject: Bridge to the Bar - January 14, 2024



Dear Students,

“If you can’t fly — then run. If you can’t run — then walk. If you can’t walk — then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

PLEASE READ THIS EMAIL CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY AS IT CONTAINS DIFFERENT AND UPDATED INFORMATION FROM LAST WEEK’S EMAIL.

TEST LOCATION ASSIGNMENTS & LUNCHES FOR THE BAR EXAM

Last week, BOLE emailed each applicant individually for them to choose their preferred location for the bar exam and many (if not all) of you have received confirmation of your seat assignment. If you did not receive an email, reach out to BOLE directly to make your selection.

Staff/Faculty/Administrators from the law school will deliver lunches to our bar takers who have chosen seats at the **Armory and Hofstra** on both days of the bar exam. Please [MAKE YOUR LUNCH SELECTIONS HERE](#) if you are taking the bar exam at either of those two locations.

REMINDER: MOCK MEE/MPT and MBE DAYS ON CAMPUS

To help you prepare for the bar exam under testing conditions, I have arranged for two separate “Mock Exams” on campus.

On Friday, January 19, 8:30-5:30, we will host a mock MPT/MEE in room 1-13 timed exactly as Day One of the bar exam. **Please bring two MPTs and six mixed MEEs assigned by BarBri to prepare.**

On Friday, January 26, 8:30-5:30, we will host a mock MBE in room 1-13 timed exactly as Day Two of the bar exam. **Please bring the simulated MBE assigned BarBri to prepare.**

While the mock exam days are being hosted with BarBri, you are welcome to come even if you are using a different commercial bar prep company but you will not check in with Matt Mundo when you arrive. Irrespective of your bar prep company, you are welcome to attend one or both scheduled dates.

I highly recommend that you plan to attend both days even if you do not feel “ready” and even if BarBri has assigned the mock MBE for a later date. Matt will be in touch with directions as we get closer to the mock exam dates.

Your lunch selections for both mock exam days have been noted. Thank you!

YOGA WITH TANYA

Tanya Weekes will be hosting another in the series of Wellness Events for Bar Takers on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at noon in the Private Dining Room when she will teach a yoga class for all who are interested in taking a study break. You can attend in person or virtually by clicking the link pasted above my signature block in this email.

Please bring your own yoga mat or towel if you come in person.

BAR EXAM STUDYING STRATEGIES

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

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 **AND TO COMPLETE YOUR PRACTICE ASSIGNMENTS UNDER TIMED CONDITIONS DURING THE HOURS THE BAR EXAM WILL BE ADMINISTERED: 9:30 am-12:30 pm and 2:00 pm-5:00 pm.**
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 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 January or February, 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 2 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 (app. 33 per hour)

Budget your time accordingly as you do your practice sets!

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

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 2024 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/>

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.

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.

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Best,

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