
From: Rachel Paras
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:16 AM
To: Rachel Paras
Subject: Bridge to the Bar - January 7, 2024
Importance: High



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Students,

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing."

• Pele

PLEASE READ THIS EMAIL CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY AS IT IS UPDATED WEEKLY WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 2024 NYS BAR EXAM AND BAR PREP EVENTS ON CAMPUS.

PLEASE RSVP FOR LUNCHEES ON 1/19 AND 1/26 IN THE GOOGLE FORMS BELOW NO LATER THAN TOMORROW, JANUARY 8.

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

Registration for the February 2024 administration of the NYS Bar exam closed on November 30, 2023, so you should be fully registered and preparing for the exam. The lap-top registration period closed on January 3, 2024, so if you have not registered your laptop, you will handwrite both MPTs and all six essays on the first day of the exam.

Note that the New York Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) has released the February bar exam test sites. From the BOLE website:

FEBRUARY 2024 BAR EXAMINATION TEST SITES

The February 27-28, 2024 administration of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in New York will be administered in-person. There will be no remote option. All components of the UBE will be in paper question booklets, and applicants will be required to answer the MBE questions on a paper scantron answer sheet that

will be provided. The application filing period for the February 2024 Bar Examination is now closed. The application filing period for Non-Standard Test Accommodations for the February 2024 Bar Examination is also closed. No late applications will be considered.

Applicants who selected the laptop option for the MPT and MEE were contacted by email with the instructions for purchasing, downloading and registering the Exemplify software with ExamSoft. The deadline to complete the laptop registration with ExamSoft was January 3, 2024. Applicants who did not complete the registration with ExamSoft have been removed from the laptop program and switched to handwriting the exam. Test Center Assignments:

The list of test sites for the February 2024 Bar Exam is available at <https://www.nybarexam.org/ExamSites/ExamSites.htm>.

ALBANY

**Albany Capital Center
55 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207**

BUFFALO

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

<https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/bar-exam/>

LONG ISLAND

**David S. Mack Sports & Exhibition Complex
Hofstra University
245 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549**

NEW YORK CITY

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

Test center assignments will be based on availability and on a first come, first served 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 on or about January 8, 2024 containing a link instructing the applicant to select and confirm their preferred location (Albany, Buffalo, New York City, Long Island). First-time applicants who graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from a New York State law school will be given first 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. All applicants (except those who have already been awarded test accommodations) must make a test site selection by no later than Friday, January 12, 2024. Applicants who do not make a selection will be withdrawn from the bar exam. Please do not call the Board office to request the specific time when the seat selection email will be sent on January 8. The time when the email will be sent depends on several factors and we are unable to commit to an exact time.

If you have decided not to take the February 2024 bar exam please login to your BOLE Account in the Applicant Services Portal, scroll down to the Uniform Bar Exam Application section, and click on the Withdrawal from Examination button. Once you submit the withdrawal the decision is irreversible so please carefully read all instructions before withdrawing. The application fee is non-refundable but if you have extenuating circumstances necessitating your withdrawal you may submit a written request for a one-time credit of the fee. The request must be in writing and include your BOLE Number, the reason for your withdrawal and appropriate supporting documentation.

MOCK MEE & MBE DATES 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.

We will provide lunch on both mock exam days so please RSVP below so we will be sure to have enough food and to accommodate any dietary requirements:

Friday, January 19 8:30-5:30 Mock MPT/MEE – Please [RSVP HERE](#) for lunch only **BY TOMORROW, JANUARY 8.**

Friday, January 26 8:30-5:30 Mock MBE – Please [RSVP HERE](#) for lunch only **BY TOMORROW, JANUARY 8.**

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 and questions as quickly as possible, even if you don’t feel “ready” - just do them, you’ll be glad you did.
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” or “attack sheet” 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 ones 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 you’ve created 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 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 MCs per hour)

Budget your time accordingly as you do your practice sets!

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 Canvas 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/>

Our resident social worker, Tanya Weekes, will be leading a nature walk around campus this Wednesday, January 10, 12:00-1:00 p.m., if you want to take a little break from studying and get some fresh air. Meet Tanya and your fellow walkers outside the PDR by noon to get underway. In the event of inclement weather, Tanya will lead a guided meditation in the PDR, also starting at noon so mark your calendars for some studying down time on Wednesday!

****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 2 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!

Best,

Prof. Rachel R. Paras

Senior Director of Bar Preparation

Adjunct Professor

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A blue graphic at the bottom of the page features a stylized bridge on the left and the text "St. John's Law Bridge" on the right.

St. John's Law Bridge