
From: Rachel Paras
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Rachel Paras
Subject: Bridge to the Bar - February 4, 2024

Importance: High



Dear Students,

"It's not about money or connections--it's the willingness to outwork and outlearn everyone."

- Mark Cuban

It is officially February!

You have all been working so hard to prepare for the bar exam, it's inspiring. I am happy to hear from all of you with any questions you have as you prepare so please keep reaching out!

FEBRUARY 2024 BAR EXAM PROCEDURES AND SECURITY POLICIES

Please see document attached [here](#) for a statement from NY BOLE regarding bar exam testing and security protocols.

Please read it carefully and in its entirety.

***** Please note that on the Bar Exam Security Policy, you are only allowed to bring #2 pencils and sharpeners for the MBE day, so we have ordered red pencils and sharpeners for you complete with a St. John's Law School logo printed on one side and "YOU GOT THIS!" printed on the other 😊 I will leave them at the fourth-floor desk so please come pick them up next time you are on campus. *****

SYNTHESIZING THE MOCK MPT/MEE/MBE EXAM RESULTS

Now that many of you have completed both mock exam days on campus, I highly recommend you review the document posted on the Canvas Bar Prep page entitled, "POST-MBE TIPS" (embedded [here](#)).

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 this past summer I created a detailed plan called “**July Study Strategies**” (also embedded [here](#)), which you can apply to the remaining weeks of bar prep.

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

As you practice essay/MPT writing, you will spend A LOT of time reading model (and ideal) answers, which may skew your perception of what will be required of you on the bar exam. Be sure to visit the BOLE website’s tab [here](#) for sample passing candidate exam submissions. Do not rely on these sample answers for the accuracy of the legal rules, just read them so you can see what a passing answer should look like.

ESSAY WRITING, MPT STRATEGIES, AND MBE VIDEOS & TECHNIQUES!

Read below for the video lectures I recorded and materials on how to answer the three types of questions given on the bar exam (MPT, MEE, & MBE) as well as important tips on how to maximize your studying in the time remaining.

Even if you have watched similar lectures as part of your commercial bar prep course, I recommend you watch these, also, as I kept them brief and you may hear something(s) that changes your approach to answering questions for the better.

MPT Six-Step Strategy

* Watch the video [here](#) and access the MPT we used to practice, the slide presentation, Six-Step Strategy, and model answer [here](#).

MEE Writing Techniques

* Watch the video [here](#) (I edited out the beginning and end for brevity but you will not miss anything) and access the legal rules/essay question/model answer [here](#).

MBE Techniques with Chuck Shonholz from BarBri

* Watch the video [here](#) from a lecture Chuck gave right here at St. John’s Law School and access the slide presentation [here](#).

YOGA WITH TANYA

Tanya Weekes will be hosting another in the series of Wellness Events for Bar Takers on Wednesday, February 7, 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 below my signature block in this email.

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

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

BAR EXAM STUDYING STRATEGIES

I have created a module on the Canvas Bar Prep page entitled, “Bar Exam Studying Strategies,” which contains a document called, “POST-MBE TIPS” (embedded [here](#)).

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 this past summer I created a detailed plan called “**July Study Strategies**” (also embedded [here](#)), which you can apply to the remaining weeks of bar prep.

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

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 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

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 Summer 2022 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!

Best,

Prof. Rachel R. Paras

Senior Director of Bar Preparation

Adjunct Professor

St. John's University School of Law

8000 Utopia Parkway

Queens, NY 11439

[\(718\) 990-2799](tel:(718)990-2799)

parasr@stjohns.edu

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

