

From: Rachel Paras
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Rachel Paras
Subject: BRIDGE TO THE BAR - May 26, 2024
Importance: High



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

Your first “official” week of bar prep is behind you and things are off to a great start!

Note the new look and format of this email to make the information easier for you to find

I. <u>NYS BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS (BOLE) UPDATES</u>	
	<p>NOTHING NEW THIS WEEK FROM BOLE!</p> <p>Check back in next week’s Bridge to the Bar email.</p> <p>Any questions about exam requirements should be directed to BOLE at nybarexam.org or (518) 453-5990.</p>

[II. ON-CAMPUS WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMMING, AND SUPPORT](#)

Monday, May 27, is Memorial Day and the Law School is CLOSED so please make alternative study arrangements and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 28!

BAR REVIEW WORKSHOPS WITH PROFESSOR PARAS

Beginning this Thursday, May 30, and for the four subsequent Thursdays (June 6, 13, 20, and 27), I will be teaching Essay Writing Techniques and the five MEE subjects from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 1-15.

All are welcome to attend and the schedule of weekly subjects is as follows:

Week #1: May 30	Essay Writing Techniques – Wills & Trusts
Week #2: June 6	Family Law
Week #3: June 13	Business Organizations
Week #4: June 20	Secured Transactions
Week #5: June 27	Agency & Partnerships/Conflicts of Laws

You do not need to register to attend the workshops but please [RSVP here no](#) later than Tuesday, May 28 for the **first MEE workshop only (May 30, Essay Writing Techniques/Wills & Trusts)**, so I will be sure to have enough copies of the handouts.

Please expect the first class on May 30 to run a little longer than two hours as I will present a brief overview of the bar exam itself, essay-writing techniques, and some strategies for you to use as you prepare for the exam.

BAR REVIEW “BOOTCAMP” WITH PROFESSOR PARAS & GUESTS

I, along with several guest lecturers, will host a two-week “Bar Exam Bootcamp” for the seven MBE subjects as well as MEEs and MPTs beginning Monday, July 15, through the following Thursday right before the bar exam, July 25, 9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in room 1-13 with spillover/simulcast into room 1-15, and again, all are welcome.

More likely than not, you will be almost done if not completely done with BarBri by the time the Bootcamp begins. It is designed to supplement your PSP and provide the practice you might not otherwise get during these two weeks. Feel free to come only on the days that work for you, but I think you’ll see right away how helpful it is and will want to attend most, if not all the workshops.

You do not need to register for the Bootcamp but I will circulate an RSVP form before July 15 so I will be sure to have enough copies of the materials.

During the two weeks of bootcamp, we will serve lunch as well as dinner.

The subjects for the “Bar Exam Bootcamp” from July 15 – July 25 have been finalized and, for planning purposes, are as follows:

DATE	MORNING (9:45a.m.-12:15p.m.)	AFTERNOON (12:45-2:30P.M.)
July 15	Civil Procedure MBEs	Civil Procedure Essays
July 16	Real Property MBEs	Real Property MBEs
July 17	MPT Practice	Evidence MBEs
July 18	Torts MBEs	Crim Law/Pro Essay & Trusts Essay
July 19	MPT (Morning Session Only)	NO AFTERNOON SESSION
July 22	Con Law MBEs	Con Law Essay
July 23	MPT Practice	MPT Practice
July 24	UCC MBEs	UCC Essay
July 25	Four Mixed-Subject Essays (TBA)	Essay Analysis

Again, all are welcome to attend any or all the sessions.

All weekly workshops and bootcamp sessions will be recorded and posted to the Bar Prep Canvas page but we highly recommend you attend in person, if possible.

MOCK MBE ON CAMPUS

Mark your calendars! We, along with BarBri, are hosting the Mock MBE on Friday, June 28, 8:30-5:30, in room 1-15 timed exactly as Day Two of the bar exam. The mock MBE is the perfect touchstone of your progress up to that point and will provide valuable information about the best way to proceed with the remaining four weeks until the bar exam.

We highly recommend you take the mock MBE even if your PSP has it scheduled earlier or later than June 28.

All are welcome to attend the Mock MBE even if you are using a different commercial bar prep course.

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 25, we will be serving dinner in the Private Dining Room each night school is open Mondays through Thursdays beginning at **6:00pm until 7:00pm** for anyone who would like to take a break, see some friendly faces, and get something to eat.

Please bring your SJU Law i.d. to dinner so we can be sure only SJU bar takers eat.

Please also refrain from coming back for seconds or taking leftovers until everyone has had a chance to eat.

To be sure there is enough food for all who attend, dinners will begin promptly at 6:00 and meals will end no later than 7:00 p.m.

III. STUDY STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES

BAR PREP CANVAS PAGE

The "[Law School Bar Prep](#)" page on Canvas is up and running! You should have received an invitation to the course so once you accept it, you can access all materials and recordings from the workshops we host on campus and all study and wellness resources.

Please check the Canvas page regularly as I will post study tips and materials on an ongoing basis.

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 also created a module for all previously sent Bridge to the Bar emails in case there is information you missed that does not repeat in subsequent messages.

TIMING YOUR QUESTION PRACTICE SETS FOR THE BAR EXAM

I encourage you to look at the Subject Breakout Slide posted on Canvas 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.

I have posted several helpful videos posted about techniques for answering MEEs, MBEs, and MPTs.

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!

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

While we understand that everyone learns differently and is on an individualized timeline with their bar prep courses, here are some useful **general suggestions**:

1. Familiarize yourself with BarBri or the commercial bar prep course you are using before you actually begin studying. A lot of time is wasted figuring out how to use the websites, find explanatory answers, track your progress, etc.
2. 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.

REMEMBER: you do not need 100% to pass the bar exam so don't master the material, master the test!

4. 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.
5. Create a “shorthand list” or “attack sheet” for each subject. 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.

6. **THINK ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE EXAM ITSELF:** 9:30am – 12:30pm then 2:00pm – 5:00pm for two days. Those hours should also be when you're completing your practice questions and building your stamina to work in 3-hour blocks of time.
7. Avoid slowing down and stopping the lecture videos presented by your bar prep course.
8. 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.
9. Do each assignment from memory first, under the timed conditions laid out later in this email.
10. 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.
11. Review every MBE subject at least once a week as listed on your PSP. Covering one subject a day is a good guideline. Every time you add a subject, go back and do practice questions for subjects you've already covered ("scaffolding").
12. **Take advantage of the resources your commercial bar prep course offers as well as all of the bar prep programming the SJU bar-prep team provides on campus over the course of the summer. The resources are here for you, so make the most of them!**

REMINDERS ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE BAR

Many of you will face 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 your Bar Prep course bar rep and they 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!

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 have been assigned as follows so feel free to reach out to your assigned adjunct at any point:

JD Students by last name:

A - L Prof. Simone simonek@stjohns.edu

M - Z Prof. Alexander alexandk@stjohns.edu

All LL.M. Students

Prof. Cole colec@stjohns.edu

Please read the document posted on the Bar Prep Canvas Page entitled “Working With Adjuncts Summer 2024” prior to reaching out to your assigned adjunct.

BAR SUPPORT TA

I am also very happy to share that we will have the support of one of our recent graduates/successful bar takers, Seth Goldstein, until the second week of July so please feel free to contact Seth directly at seth.goldstein21@my.stjohns.edu or on his cell (516) 238-1671 for any bar prep related questions or advice.

Seth hosted a virtual information session for all bar takers on Tuesday, May 21, @ 9:00 a.m. and the recording/slides have been posted to Canvas if you were unable to attend.

Seth has also generously provided from his bar prep experience a document entitled “UBE Tips” located [on Canvas here](#).

Seth will be on campus this coming Wednesday, May 29, and available by appointment or to answer questions if you’d like to contact him directly at seth.goldstein21@my.stjohns.edu or on his cell (516) 238-1671.

ON-CAMPUS ROOMS RESERVED FOR QUIET BAR STUDY

Over the course of bar prep, from May 21 until the end of July, classrooms 2-01C, 2-12, 2-16, 2-21, 2-25, 2M-08, and 2M-11 will be available as a quiet study space to any student who wants to use them from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., weekdays and Saturdays. You do not need to register for these rooms but we ask that you respect anyone else who is also using them.

Please note that if you leave any study materials in these rooms overnight, you do so at your own risk.

SUMMER LIBRARY ACCESS and LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT

Please note that, in addition to the classrooms listed above that we have set aside for quiet study space, your library swipe card access will continue through the end of the bar exam.

Please visit the SJU website [HERE](#) and please read the email sent by Dean Selby posted on Canvas [HERE](#) for more information on the Library Elevator Renovation project, timelines, additional study space, etc.

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 full 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.

IV. WELLNESS SUPPORT RESOURCES

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.

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://www.stjohns.edu/life-st-johns/health-and-wellness>

I will send reminders about the foregoing schedule and write with updates as bar prep progresses but feel free to reach out to me anytime by email: parasr@stjohns.edu.

For any BarBri-related questions, please reach out to Matt Mundo Matthew.Mundo@barbri.com.

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

Best,

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St. John's Law Bridge