

# 2023

## Year in Review



**NCBE**<sup>®</sup>  
National Conference  
of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical,  
and diverse legal profession.

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National Conference  
of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical,  
and diverse legal profession.

302 South Bedford Street  
Madison, WI 53703

[ncbex.org](https://ncbex.org)  
[thebarexaminer.org](https://thebarexaminer.org)  
[nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org](https://nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org)  
[reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide](https://reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide)

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The National Conference of Bar Examiners, founded in 1931, is a not-for-profit corporation that develops licensing tests for bar admission and provides character and fitness investigation services. NCBE also provides testing, research, and educational services to jurisdictions; provides services to bar applicants on behalf of jurisdictions; and acts as a national clearinghouse for information about the bar examination and bar admissions. In 2026, NCBE will launch the next generation of the bar examination, ensuring that the exam continues to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent entry-level legal practice in a changing profession.

## Our Mission

NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in admission to the legal profession for the benefit and protection of the public. We serve admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates by providing high-quality

- assessment products, services, and research;
- character investigations; and
- informational and educational resources and programs.

## Our Vision

A competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession

## Our Core Values

NCBE is committed to

- excellence
- fairness
- integrity
- service



# Who We Are *and* What We Do



## Our Partnership with Jurisdictions

We develop and produce the licensing and professional responsibility tests used by most US jurisdictions for admission to the bar. We help jurisdiction bar admissions processes run smoothly from start to finish by providing support and training to jurisdiction administrators and graders, providing scoring and research services after each exam and on an as-needed basis, and conducting character and fitness investigations on behalf of jurisdictions. We provide financial and professional support to the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA).



## Our Support for Applicants

We help streamline the process of applying for bar admission by providing score services and other admission-related services to applicants on behalf of jurisdictions and providing NCBE Accounts that offer applicants a one-stop secure web portal. We offer study aids with authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions. Our website, [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org), is a comprehensive resource for bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions and for information about our tests, character and fitness investigation services, score services, and study aids.



## Our Collaboration with the Bar Admissions Community

We sponsor a wide range of educational events for jurisdiction bar examiners, bar admission administrators, and members of jurisdictions' highest courts, and we conduct ongoing research relevant to bar admissions testing; we also provide support for graduate student research in this area. Our quarterly publication, the *Bar Examiner*, provides comprehensive, authoritative information about topics of interest to the bar admissions community.



## Our Commitment to the Legal Education Community

We sponsor educational events for legal educators and publish news and information of interest to the legal education community. We work with organizations that support students preparing for law school and the bar, advancing our shared goals and building foundations for the future of the legal profession.

# Letter from the NCBE Board Chair



John J. McAlary  
2023–2024 NCBE Board Chair

Welcome to the *2023 Year in Review*, the ninth edition of a publication that highlights NCBE's work during the past year in fulfilling its mission to promote fairness, integrity, and best practices in bar admissions while providing high-quality testing products, services, and research; character and fitness investigations; and educational resources and programs to jurisdictions, the legal education community, and candidates.

What a year it was at NCBE! Significant progress was made this past year on the development of the NextGen bar exam. Pilot testing that commenced in 2022 was completed in April 2023. In May 2023, the Content Scope was published, which described the breadth of material to be covered on the exam. In July, the first NextGen sample questions were released, and the planned duration and structure of the new exam were announced the following month. Throughout 2023, NCBE leadership and staff presented at conferences and met with many jurisdictions and law schools to discuss and answer questions about the exam. By the time of publication, thirteen jurisdictions had announced their intention to adopt the NextGen bar exam. The new exam has clearly gained a foothold in bar admissions and is poised to make even more progress in 2024.

As you read through the *Year in Review*, I am certain you will be as impressed as I am with the exceptional work accomplished at NCBE. While managing the herculean task of developing an entirely new exam, NCBE concurrently continues to develop and deliver the current bar exam and services. In 2023, the MEE and MPT were delivered to a record number of examinees; the UBE was administered in 41 jurisdictions, with a record number of 45,458 scores earned; and the number of candidates taking the MBE and MPRE in 2023 was the largest since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 NCBE also launched an updated and expanded version of its Online Verification system; made significant progress on the ongoing project to revise and update its standard character and fitness application; and renewed its partnership with CLEO to provide financial assistance for students from underrepresented communities as they prepare for the bar exam.

NCBE's exceptional work would not be possible without the dedicated and talented NCBE staff and the many volunteers who serve on the NCBE policy and drafting committees. After 25 years in bar admissions, I remain in awe of the talent, knowledge, and commitment of both NCBE's staff and the volunteers who serve on its committees. They deserve our gratitude for continuing to improve the bar admissions process and for making this a better profession.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. McAlary". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John J. McAlary  
2023–2024 NCBE Board Chair

# Letter from the NCBE President



Judith A. Gundersen  
NCBE President and CEO

Looking over this *2023 Year in Review*, I am struck by how much more we know about the NextGen bar exam at the beginning of 2024 than we did a year ago. We have many more details about the specific knowledge and skills that will be tested on the new exam; we know how long it will be and how it will be structured; we have the first examples of what the exam questions will look like; and, most exciting of all, we know the first jurisdictions that have announced plans to administer the new exam.

None of this would have been possible without the less visible but vital work of NextGen question development, which continued at full steam in 2023. You'll see in these pages news about the completion of pilot testing and preparations for field testing in early 2024, both crucial pieces for ensuring that NextGen exam questions are "ready for prime time" in July 2026. We extend our profound thanks to the law schools across the country that have helped us reach out to students and recent graduates to participate; they have also generously provided space on their campuses and proctoring support for this testing. Thanks are due, as well, to the volunteer members of three new drafting committees who are authoring questions for the new exam, as well as to the NCBE staff members who are involved in every aspect of the exam's rollout, from overseeing question drafting to developing new IT systems to traveling around the country helping law schools and jurisdictions prepare.

None of this means, of course, that our work to develop our current exams and provide character and fitness services has diminished. We produced and scored two bar exams and three MPREs in 2023, a year that saw increased examinee counts for every exam administration; made improvements to our investigations systems to streamline the process for all users; put together a packed calendar of high-quality educational offerings for jurisdiction administrators, both new and seasoned; and responded to thousands of support inquiries from candidates, helping them navigate the bar admissions process from start to finish.

I am also pleased to report that we renewed our partnership with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) in 2023 for another three years. This ongoing partnership has allowed NCBE to provide significant support to CLEO's vital mission of helping to ensure access to the legal profession for all. It serves as an important example of our commitment to supporting bar applicants wherever they are: in large jurisdictions or small ones, whether 1Ls or new graduates, whether they'll take the current exam or NextGen.

I have no doubt that 2024 will bring with it at least as many new developments as 2023 did, and I am truly excited to see where we are a year from now.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith".

Judith A. Gundersen  
NCBE President and CEO



# The Next Generation of the Bar Exam

## Content Scope Outlines Published

In May, NCBE published the NextGen content scope outlines, which describe the breadth of material to be covered in the areas of legal knowledge and categories of practical skills and abilities that will be tested on the NextGen bar exam. A content outline for family law, which was added in October to the list of foundational concepts and principles to be tested on the new exam, is currently under development.

## The First Sample Questions

The first sample questions for the NextGen exam were released in July, when NCBE published examples of two new question types that are not used on the current bar exam: an integrated question set, which features a mix of short-answer and multiple-choice questions in response to a common fact scenario, and a new type of multiple-choice question that requires examinees to select two correct answers from six options. In early 2024, an additional integrated question set was published along with an example of a third question type, which is modeled on the current Multistate Performance Test (MPT) and requires examinees to demonstrate their ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in realistic situations.

## Duration and Structure Announced

An August announcement shared details about the planned duration and structure of the new exam, which will be divided into three sessions of three hours each, with each session containing two integrated question sets, one performance task, and approximately 40 multiple-choice questions. These three-hour sessions will be administered over one and a half days, with six hours of testing time on day one and three hours on day two.

**NextGen**   
Bar Exam of the Future

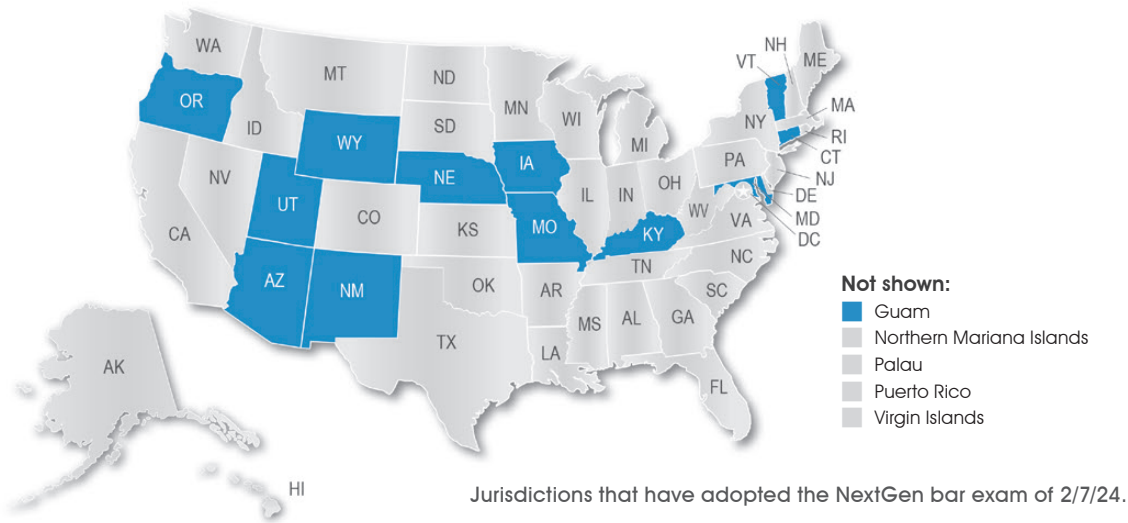
New NextGen pages on the NCBE website ([ncbex.org/exams/nextgen](https://ncbex.org/exams/nextgen)) will help keep jurisdictions, candidates, and law school faculty and staff up to date on plans for the new exam, with practical information to help prepare for the transition.



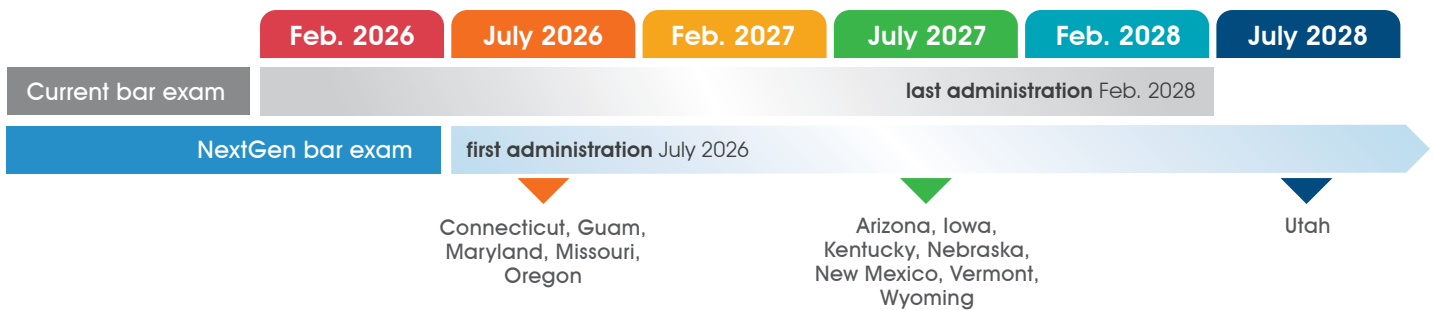
## The Next Generation of the Bar Exam continued

### The First NextGen Jurisdictions

In November and December, NCBE shared announcements from the first nine jurisdictions to adopt the NextGen bar exam: Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wyoming. Four additional jurisdictions—Guam, New Mexico, Utah, and Vermont—announced plans to adopt the exam in early 2024. An up-to-date list of jurisdictions that have adopted the NextGen bar exam is available on the NCBE website at [ncbex.org/exams/nextgen](https://ncbex.org/exams/nextgen).



### NextGen Transition Timeline







## NextGen Question Development Milestones

2023 saw the conclusion of the first phase of research testing for the NextGen bar exam and preparations for the launch of the next phase in early 2024. This testing provides qualitative and quantitative data to help ensure that the new exam tests what it's meant to and does so in a way that is fair and accessible to all examinees.

### **Pilot testing for the NextGen exam was completed in early 2023.**

Four rounds of pilot testing were administered between August 2022 and April 2023 to third- or fourth-year law students and recent law school graduates.

**More than 2,500 students and graduates from 70 law schools across the United States participated.**

### **Field testing began in January 2024**

with in-person testing sessions at law schools across the country.

**88 law schools in 41 jurisdictions across the United States participated.**





## The Next Generation of the Bar Exam continued

### Outreach

NCBE leadership met throughout the year with jurisdiction courts, boards, and administrators, and with law school representatives, to discuss the transition to the new exam. In October and December, NCBE hosted online roundtables for jurisdiction high-court justices to discuss emerging topics relating to the development and administration of the NextGen exam; additional meetings in the quarterly series are planned for 2024.

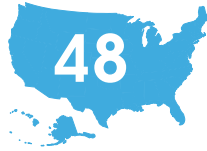
Throughout 2023, NCBE staff also spoke at conferences and meetings hosted by other organizations, sharing information and updates about the NextGen bar exam to help jurisdictions and law schools prepare for the new exam.

- Association of American Law Schools 2023 Annual Meeting (San Diego, January 3–7)
- Law Librarians of New England (Boston, April 14)
- Association of Academic Support Administrators Annual Conference (Santa Clara, May 23–25)
- American Association of Law Libraries (Boston, July 15–18)
- Western Pacific Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (San Diego, September 30)
- Association of Academic Support Educators Biennial Diversity Conference (Washington, DC, October 11–13)
- LexCon '23 (Chicago, November 9)
- LicensureCon: A Summit on New Pathways to Legal Licensure (Colorado Springs, November 8–9)

# NCBE Exams



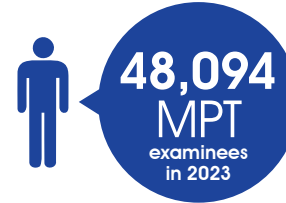
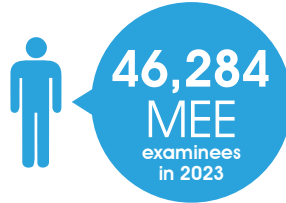
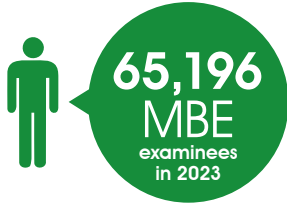
**54** jurisdictions used the MBE in 2023.



**48** jurisdictions used the MEE in 2023.



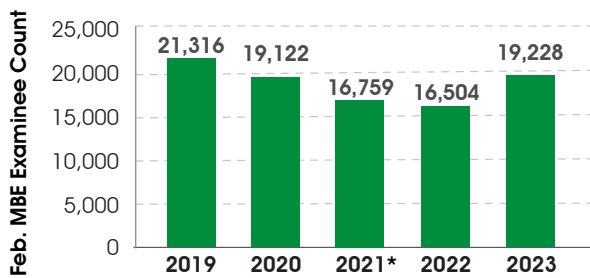
**50** jurisdictions used the MPT in 2023.



## MBE SNAPSHOT

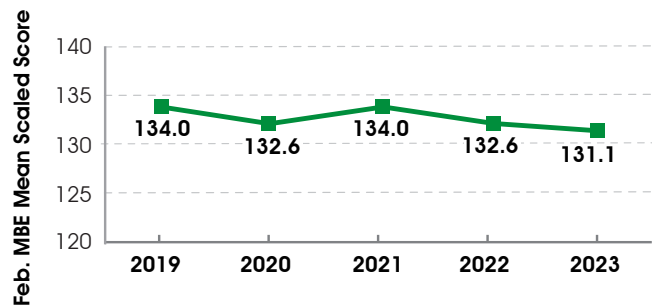
February 2023 MBE Examinees: **19,228**

Number of February MBE Examinees, 2019–2023



February 2023 MBE Mean Score: **131.1**

February MBE Mean Score, 2019–2023

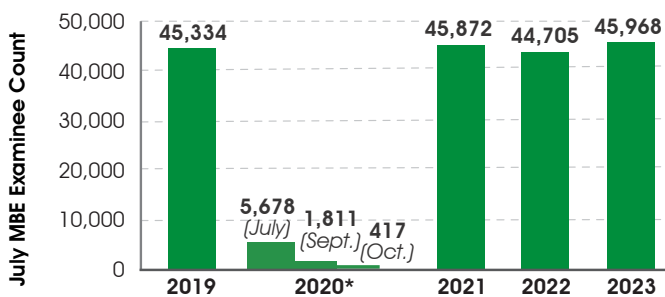


\*161 additional examinees took a makeup multiple-choice exam in Texas in March 2021 for local admission only as a result of severe weather that prevented them from taking the February 2021 MBE.

MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 12/5/23.

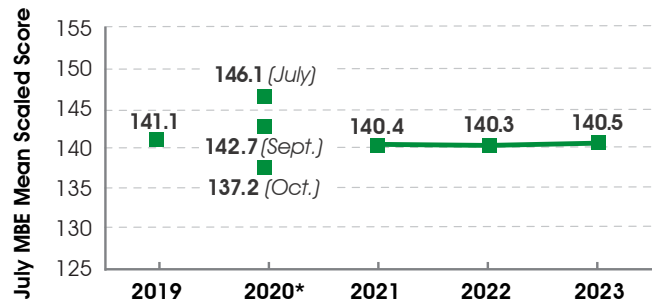
July 2023 MBE Examinees: **45,968**

Number of July MBE Examinees, 2019–2023



July 2023 MBE Mean Score: **140.5**

July MBE Mean Score, 2019–2023



\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the July 2020 MBE was administered on three separate dates: July 29, September 10, and October 1. The results shown are for in-person examinees only; approximately 29,000 additional examinees sat for a remotely administered exam using NCBE materials in October 2020. Comparability to other years' results may be limited due to the lower examinee count.

MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 12/5/23.

The Multistate Bar Examination, Multistate Essay Examination, and Multistate Performance Test are administered by user jurisdictions as part of the bar examination in February and July each year.

**Most jurisdictions use one or more of the bar exam components developed by NCBE:**

The **Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)** is a 200-question multiple-choice exam that assesses the extent to which an examinee can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns.

The **Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)** is a six-question essay exam that tests an examinee’s ability to identify legal issues, separate relevant from irrelevant material, analyze the issues, and demonstrate an understanding of fundamental legal principles.

The **Multistate Performance Test (MPT)** consists of two performance tasks that test an examinee’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each item evaluates an examinee’s ability to complete a task that a newly licensed lawyer should be able to accomplish.

A majority of jurisdictions have adopted the **Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)**, which consists of the MBE, the MEE, and the MPT, and results in a portable score that can be transferred to other UBE jurisdictions.

**Did you know?**

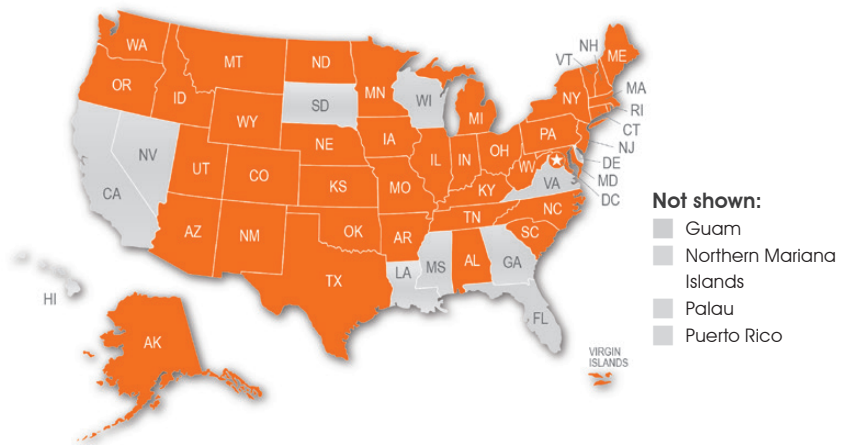
There are 56 US jurisdictions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

**UBE SNAPSHOT**

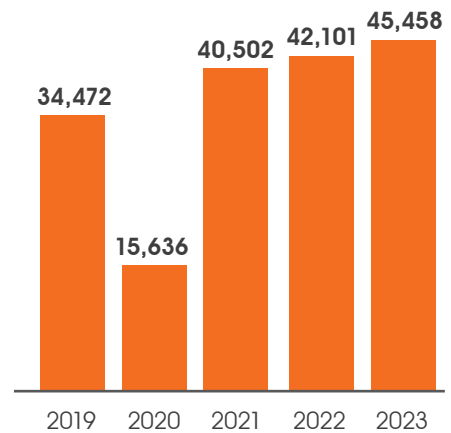
The Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) results in a portable score that can be used to apply for admission in other UBE jurisdictions.



Number of jurisdictions that have adopted the UBE



Number of UBE Scores Earned by Year, 2019–2023



Total UBE Scores Earned and Transferred as of January 1, 2024



# MPRE

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

## MPRE SNAPSHOT



54

54 jurisdictions required the MPRE in 2023.



60,464  
MPRE  
examinees  
in 2023

The **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** is administered by NCBE through its test contractor three times per year.

Most jurisdictions require the MPRE, a 60-question multiple-choice exam that measures candidates' knowledge and understanding of established standards related to the professional conduct of lawyers.

2023 MPRE examinees by administration:



20,184  
March  
examinees



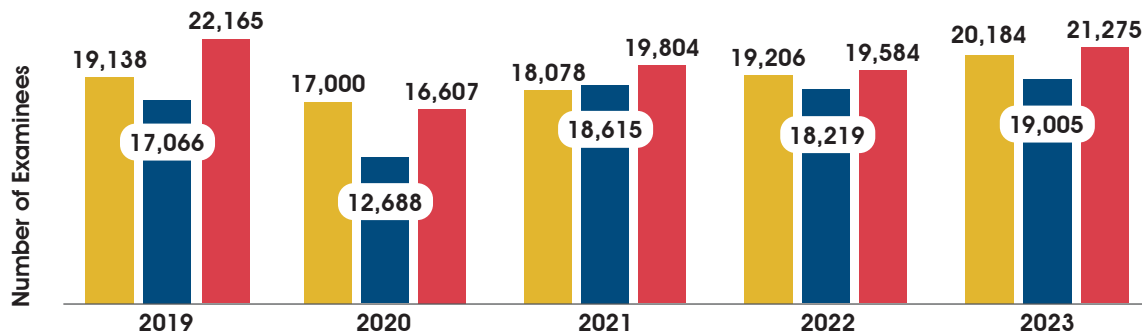
19,005  
August  
examinees



21,275  
November  
examinees

### Number of MPRE Examinees, 2019–2023

■ March Exam ■ August Exam ■ October/November Exam



2023 MPRE mean scores by administration:

94.9  
March  
mean  
score

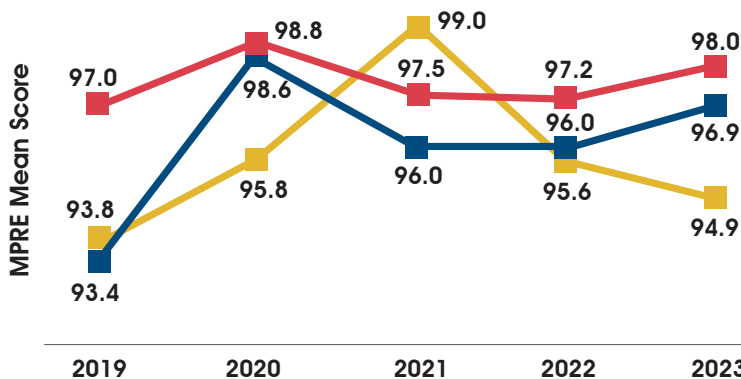
96.9  
August  
mean  
score

98.0  
November  
mean  
score

MPRE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 50 to 150. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 12/5/23.

### MPRE Mean Scores, 2019–2023

■ March Exam ■ August Exam ■ October/November Exam



Comparability of results may be limited due to fluctuations in examinee counts.

# Jurisdiction Services

## Character and Fitness Investigations



**13,860**  
INVESTIGATIONS

NCBE conducted **13,860** character and fitness investigations on behalf of **29** jurisdictions in 2023.



JURISDICTIONS



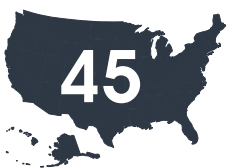
JURISDICTIONS

**25** jurisdictions used our online Character Report Application in 2023.



JURISDICTIONS

**53** jurisdictions used our Online Verification system in 2023.



JURISDICTIONS

**45** jurisdictions participated in our Cross-Reference service in 2023.

### Did you know?

In addition to providing character and fitness investigation services, NCBE offers the following services for jurisdictions:

- an online **Character Report Application** (jurisdictions may use the online application even if they do not use NCBE's investigation services)
- an **Online Verification system** that allows jurisdictions, law schools, employers, and references to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries
- a **Cross-Reference service** that allows jurisdictions to determine whether applicants have previously submitted any type of application to another jurisdiction

Decisions about the character and fitness of applicants to practice law are made by jurisdiction courts, boards of bar admission, or character and fitness boards, not by NCBE.

In 2023, NCBE launched an updated and expanded version of its **Online Verification system**, which allows jurisdictions, law schools, employers, and references to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries. The updated system includes enhanced features that allow multiple users to view and respond to inquiries, allow multiple inquiries to be completed in one session, and allow users to upload supporting documentation and to print or save a copy of completed inquiries.



## Psychometric Services

NCBE performs statistical analysis, equating, and scoring for each MBE and MPRE administration, and offers score scaling services to scale the written components of the bar exam to the MBE.

NCBE also prepares data forensics reports for cases in which examinees are suspected of cheating and conducts additional testing-related research in partnership with jurisdictions. These services are available to all jurisdictions at no charge.

### Scoring, Scaling, and Statistical Analysis



**151,718**  
exams

In 2023, NCBE scored, equated, scaled, and performed other statistical analyses on **151,718** exams for **55** jurisdictions.

**42** jurisdictions used our score scaling services in 2023.

### Research and Cheating Analysis



In 2023, NCBE provided research support (including analyses related to suspected cheating) for **17** jurisdictions.



# Candidate Services

NCBE provides support to candidates throughout the bar admissions process, supplying information and resources as candidates prepare for the bar exam, register for the MPRE, transfer their scores, and prepare their character and fitness applications. NCBE staff members are dedicated to delivering an outstanding candidate experience at every stage of the process.



NCBE responded to **41,521** support inquiries in 2023.

## Score Services in 2023

NCBE Score Services are available for examinees who wish to have their UBE, MBE, or MPRE scores transferred to other jurisdictions or who wish to receive a copy of their scores.

**MPRE**  
Multistate Professional  
Responsibility Examination

**22,552**

22,552 **MPRE scores**  
**transferred** to jurisdictions

**7,067**

7,067 **MPRE score transcripts**  
**released** to examinees

**UBE**  
Uniform Bar Examination

**10,054**

10,054 **UBE score transcripts**  
**transferred** to jurisdictions

**2,275**

2,275 **UBE score transcripts**  
**released** to examinees

**MBE**  
Multistate Bar Examination

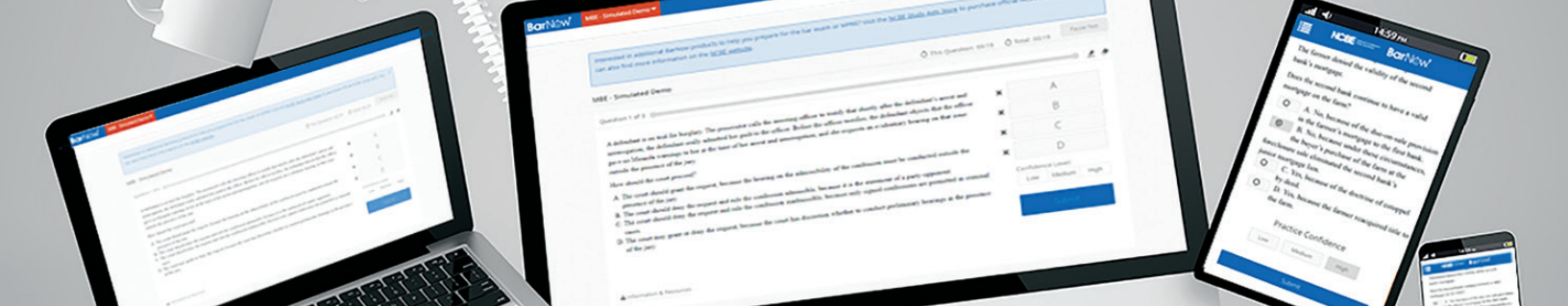
**420**

420 **MBE scores**  
**transferred** to jurisdictions

**324**

324 **MBE scores**  
**released** to examinees





**BarNow**

## BarNow in 2023

NCBE provides authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions on BarNow, its mobile-friendly, interactive online study aids platform. The free BarNow demo pack provides 30-day access to a sample study aid with official NCBE practice questions.

In 2023, NCBE lowered the cost of two of its most popular BarNow products, the Bar Exam Everything Value Pack and Simulated MPREs, locking in discounts first provided to examinees in 2020.

**4,122** bar exam study aids were purchased in 2023.

**1,769** MPRE study aids were purchased in 2023.

Visit the NCBE Study Aids web page at [ncbex.org/study-aids](https://ncbex.org/study-aids) to learn more and access the NCBE Study Aids Store.

# Educational Events

NCBE sponsors a wide range of educational events for bar examiners, bar admission administrators, legal educators, judges, and justices. NCBE underwrites all or some of the cost of attendance at these events.

## Featured Event



**NCBE ABAC2023**  
Annual Bar Admissions Conference

## Annual Bar Admissions Conference

NCBE held its 2023 Annual Bar Admissions Conference in Nashville on May 4–7. 53 jurisdictions were represented by the 376 attendees, which included 138 first-time attendees and 53 justices from jurisdictions' highest courts. The keynote address was delivered by Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative. Plenary sessions addressed topics in character and fitness, the NextGen bar exam, and artificial intelligence (AI).

## Webinars

### Mastering Exam Administration: Test Materials and Forms

This May 23 webinar for bar administrators focused on requirements, best practices, and helpful strategies for managing test materials, answer sheets, shipping boxes and envelopes, and necessary forms to ensure that every exam administration is smooth, secure, and as stress-free as possible for examinees and staff.



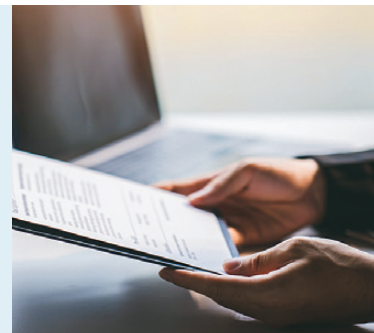
### 2023–2024 Investigation Services Update Webinar

This webinar, held on September 27, provided key updates for jurisdictions about investigation services updates released in 2023. Topics included improvements to the Online Verification system and inquiry letters, changes to the personally identifiable information collected and reported for each candidate, and a sneak peek at enhancements that will roll out in 2024.



### A Lawyer's Character: Reviewing the Standard Application

NCBE's Diversity and Inclusion and Character and Fitness Investigations Committees are jointly engaged in reviewing NCBE's standard character application, which serves as the admission application for approximately 25 jurisdictions and a model for many more. This two-part webinar, held on June 12 and August 22, engaged participants in a discussion of the pros and cons of various application question types and provided suggested best practices that all jurisdictions can employ, whether they use the NCBE application or not.





## Committee & Board Meetings

NCBE's Board of Trustees and policy committees meet regularly to evaluate current policies and practices and to recommend changes and improvements. Our drafting committees meet two to three times during the year to write and review exam questions.

4

Board of Trustees meetings

21

Policy Committee meetings

24

Drafting Committee meetings

## Additional Events in 2023

### Grading Workshops

After every administration of the bar exam, NCBE sponsors a hands-on Grading Workshop for jurisdiction graders. Individual workshop sessions, led by members of NCBE's MEE and MPT Drafting Committees, are held for each question. 698 attendees from 44 jurisdictions participated in the February Grading Workshop, and 774 attendees from 48 jurisdictions participated in the July Grading Workshop.

### NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting

From August 11 to 14, 105 attendees from 33 jurisdictions gathered in Denver, Colorado, for the 2023 NCBE and Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA) Annual Meeting. Plenary sessions discussed disabilities and test accommodations; the admissions experience through a diversity lens; and exam misconduct affecting character and fitness.

### New Bar Admission Administrators Mini-Seminar

NCBE hosted a seminar on September 18 to 20 for new bar admission administrators at its Madison headquarters. The seminar's goal was to familiarize the new administrators with the resources and services NCBE offers.

### CBAA Fall Meeting

From November 2 to 5, the CBAA held its Fall Meeting in Washington, DC, with 113 participants from 45 jurisdictions in attendance. Plenaries discussed emerging issues and best practices in testing accommodations; an update on the NextGen bar exam; and effective questioning during the character and fitness process.

**NextGen**  
Bar Exam of the Future

## Committee Meetings

In 2023, the first NextGen drafting committee meetings were held, convening subject matter experts from across the country to begin writing questions for the new exam. Other NextGen committees also met regularly throughout the year, including the Implementation Steering Committee, which oversees implementation of the new exam, and the Jurisdiction Advisory Committee, which provides perspectives from bar admission administrators on the implementation process.

24

NextGen Committee meetings



# Partnering *with* Law Schools

## Preparing for the NextGen Bar Exam

Many of the law students who will sit for the first administration of the NextGen bar exam began their 1L year in the fall of 2023, and NCBE is working with law schools to ensure that their students will be prepared.

Law schools have been instrumental throughout 2023 in helping to make NextGen pilot and field testing possible, sharing information with their students about opportunities to participate and offering their space to provide venues for field testing.

As students and law schools begin to look ahead to the first administration of the new exam in 2026, they can turn to the NextGen pages on NCBE's website ([ncbex.org/exams/nextgen](https://ncbex.org/exams/nextgen)) for important information to help them prepare, including a regularly updated list of jurisdictions that have adopted the new exam.

## Improving Access to the Profession

In 2023 NCBE renewed its partnership with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) for an additional three years. The partnership, currently in its sixth year, provides assistance for students from underrepresented communities throughout law school and as they prepare to take the bar exam, with the aim of supporting increased equity and access in the legal profession. More than 700 students have received support from the NCBE/CLEO Bar Passage Program since it began in 2018.





## Reporting Services

Two reporting programs provide bar passage and MPRE data to law schools to help them meet reporting obligations to the American Bar Association.

**Jurisdiction pass/fail reports:** Nineteen jurisdictions coordinate with NCBE to disseminate essential pass/fail reports to law schools. This program helps law schools obtain the information they need for American Bar Association bar passage reporting.

**Law school MPRE reports:** Law schools participating in NCBE's aggregated data reporting program receive anonymized reports following each administration of the MPRE, showing how their students and graduates performed on the exam. This program helps schools meet their reporting obligations to the ABA under Standards 302 and 315. **150 law schools** currently participate in this reporting program.

## Bar Examiner Resources for Law Students

The *Bar Examiner* published a number of articles in 2023 that can provide guidance to law students as they begin working on their bar applications and preparing for the bar exam:

- [Twelve Things I Wish Applicants Knew About the Bar Admissions Process](#)
- [Addressing Bar Exam Stress: Practical Tips for Success](#)
- [Breaking the Test-Anxiety Loop: Using Self-Regulated Learning to Improve Bar Exam Performance](#)
- [From My Perspective: Advising Applicants on the Character and Fitness Process](#)
- [FAQs About Bar Admissions: Answering Questions About NCBE's Character and Fitness Investigations](#)



# Research *and* Publications

## Research

Members of NCBE's staff conduct original scholarly research that helps maintain the high quality of our exams and contributes to the field of educational measurement.

### 2023 Research Presentations

- Ko, A., Chiu, M.M., von Davier, A., McWilliams, K. & **Oranje, A.** "What Is the Impact of Generative AI on Educational Assessment?" Invited Panel Session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **McKinley, D.**, Tong, Y. & Thomas, A. "Equity in Assessment." Presented at the Surpass Conference.
- **McKinley, D.** "Professional Competence, Assessment, and Fairness." Presented at the Association of Academic Support Educators Biennial Diversity Conference.
- **McKinley, D.**, session chair and discussant. "Equity in Assessment in the Health Professions." Division I Paper Session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **McKinley, D.**, session organizer. "Cultural Context, Validity Evidence, and Assessment in Licensure and Certification." Division I Invited Speaker Session. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **Symes, H.** "From Law Student to Lawyer: Using Qualitative Methods to Identify Barriers to the Profession." Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- **Zhang, M.** "A Machine Learning Case Study of Relationships Among Answer-Copying and Similarity Statistics for Multiple-Choice Tests." Presented at the Conference on Test Security.
- **Zhang, M.**, session organizer. "Harmonize Tradition and Innovation: Scaling, Linking,

and Equating in Technology-Enhanced Measurement." SIGIMIE Session. National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting.

### 2023 Research Publications

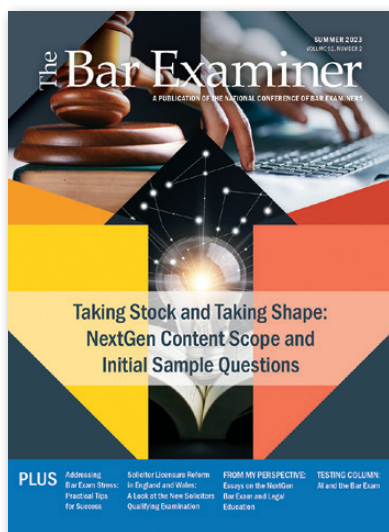
- Bailey, A.L., Martinez, J.F., **Oranje, A.** & Faulkner-Bond, M., "Introduction to Twin Pandemics: How a Global Health Crisis and Persistent Racial Injustices Are Impacting Educational Assessment." In Bailey, A.L., Martinez, J.F., **Oranje, A.** & Faulkner-Bond, M., eds. *Twin Pandemics: How a Global Health Crisis and Persistent Racial Injustices Are Impacting Educational Assessment* (Routledge).
- **Zhang, M.** Review of the book *Educational Measurement for Applied Researchers: Theory into Practice*. In *Measurement: Interdisciplinary Research and Perspectives*, 21:2, 114–116.

### 2023 Covington Award Recipient

- Nathaniel Smith, University of Massachusetts Amherst. "Machine-Learning-Augmented Logistic Regression Procedures for Identifying Complex DIF Structures."

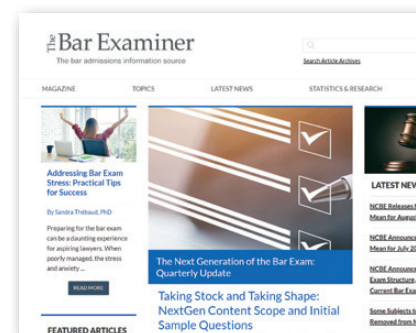
NCBE's annual Joe E. Covington Award for Research on Testing for Licensure is intended to provide support for graduate students in any discipline doing research germane to testing and measurement, particularly in a high-stakes licensure setting.

# Publications

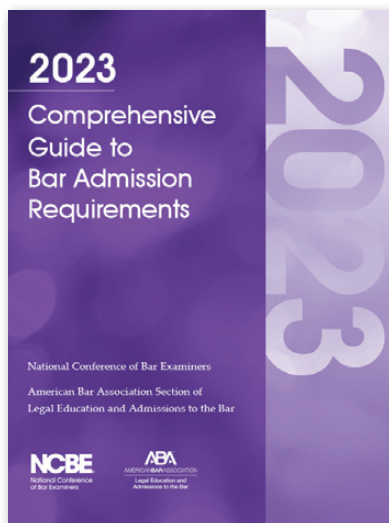


## The Bar Examiner Magazine and Website

The *Bar Examiner* website at [thebarexaminer.org](http://thebarexaminer.org) provides a one-stop resource for news and in-depth articles relating to all aspects of the bar admissions process. The *Bar Examiner* is also published as a quarterly magazine mailed to courts, members of the legal academy, bar admission administrators, and members of bar examining boards and character committees.



**41,586** visits to the Bar Examiner website



## Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

The *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, published in collaboration with the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, provides information on bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions, including a directory of jurisdiction bar admission agencies.



**78,455** visits to the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements website

# NCBE Staff and Volunteers

NCBE continued to add new staff in 2023 to support the development of the NextGen bar exam, as well as NCBE's current exams and services. The volunteer members of our Board of Trustees and our drafting and policy committees are practicing attorneys, judges, justices, law professors, and bar admissions staff from jurisdictions and law schools across the country.

- **144** NCBE staff members
- **12** Board of Trustees members from **11** jurisdictions
- **68** drafting committee members from **27** jurisdictions, including faculty members from **37** law schools
- **86** policy committee members from **44** jurisdictions

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