

# 2024

## YEAR IN REVIEW



**NCBE** National Conference  
of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.



**NCBE**

National Conference  
of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical,  
and diverse legal profession.

302 South Bedford Street  
Madison, WI 53703

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The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), 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 & 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 Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) practice questions. Our website, [ncbex.org](http://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

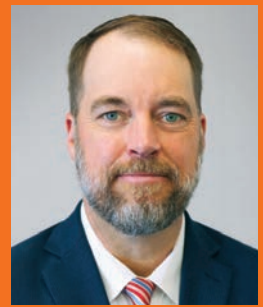
We sponsor a wide range of educational events for jurisdiction bar examiners, bar admission administrators, and members of jurisdictions' highest courts, and we conduct ongoing research relevant to bar admissions testing; we also provide support for graduate student and faculty research in this area. 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



Darin B. Scheer  
2024–2025 NCBE Board Chair

Welcome to the 2024 *Year in Review*, the 10th edition of a publication that summarizes the incredible work of NCBE staff and volunteers each year. While I have always been impressed with the massive scale, reach, and quality of NCBE’s product offerings and services to jurisdictions and candidates, this publication provides a unique overview of those many efforts during 2024.

Creating a valid, fair, and reliable bar exam is hard work. There is no other way to say it. During my 10 years as a bar examiner in Wyoming, I have considered myself to be generally familiar with what the bar exam consists of and how it comes about. After serving on numerous NCBE committees and the NCBE Board of Trustees, I now realize how much I took for granted. The densely packed pages of this *Year in Review* provide a glimpse into the tremendous efforts by NCBE in 2024 to serve jurisdictions, candidates, the legal education community, and the public.

Producing, scoring, and scaling NCBE’s current bar exam materials and the MPRE are massive undertakings on their own. The NextGen bar exam development and implementation process is equally colossal. But NCBE’s work goes beyond its exams, covering the entire bar admissions spectrum: its Investigations Department provided critical services to jurisdictions across the country, the Candidate Services Department provided important support to candidates throughout the bar admissions process, and the Meetings and Events Department put on a multitude of educational events and webinars throughout the year. NCBE was actively engaged with law schools across the country to help prepare them and their students for the rollout of the NextGen exam. NCBE research staff continued to conduct original scholarly research that contributed in a significant way to the field of high-stakes testing and educational measurement. And the NCBE Communications Department continued its impressive work in producing NCBE’s flagship publication, *The Bar Examiner*, both in print and online.

How was all of this possible, you might ask? It would not, and could not, have been without the hard work of the many dedicated staff at NCBE, together with the enormous number of volunteers and other contributors to NCBE’s important work.

As a bar examiner, I like to think of the *Year in Review* as a report card of sorts. As you will see in the following pages, I can confidently say that NCBE’s staff and volunteers earned an A+ in 2024, with extra credit for significant additional work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Scheer', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Darin B. Scheer  
2024–2025 NCBE Board Chair

# Letter from the NCBE President



Judith A. Gundersen  
NCBE President and CEO

When we put together this *Year in Review* every winter, we try to strike a balance between numbers and narrative. Each type of information contributes to a bird's-eye view of the year's work, from drafting exam questions to sending out character inquiries and responding to candidate calls.

For NextGen bar exam development in particular, you could say that 2024 was a year of numbers: one in which we were able to begin analyzing and publishing substantial data about actual NextGen exam questions, as well as about the experience of taking, supervising, and grading the exam. This data, which we will continue to gather in 2025 and beyond, will play a crucial role in ensuring the validity of the NextGen bar exam as a tool to measure entry-level readiness to practice. It will also allow for meaningful comparability between the new test and the legacy bar exam.

But data analysis was not the only work being done on the NextGen bar exam in 2024. We continued to release new sample questions and provide information and guidance for candidates, legal educators, and jurisdiction administrators. And the number of NextGen jurisdictions has tripled in the past year: well over half of all US jurisdictions have now announced plans to administer the NextGen exam.

As this *Year in Review* makes clear, the rest of NCBE's work also continued at full speed in 2024—producing, shipping, and scoring the current bar exam; processing character and fitness applications; preparing and hosting educational events; conducting research; and writing and publishing articles in *The Bar Examiner*. Our staff and volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the year, as they always do, to support jurisdictions, candidates, and law schools.

By this time next year, we'll be just a little over six months away from the inaugural NextGen administration. It's easy to look toward that first administration as a finish line, but of course it is not. The bar exam, and bar admissions more broadly, will continue to evolve in the years ahead to meet the needs of a dynamic and always-changing profession. In recognition of this, I'm proud to note that we also launched two new awards this year—each of which, in its own sphere, reflects NCBE's continuing commitment to the future of bar admissions and professional licensure more broadly: the Validity and Fairness Research Award (see page 20) and the Diane F. Bosse Award for Excellence and Service in Bar Admissions (see page 19). Both awards recognize the value of exemplary work already done, while also providing crucial support for discoveries and innovations yet to come.

As the final year of prelaunch NextGen development gets underway, I look forward to the many exciting new developments ahead. But whether it's hard numbers or fine details, the admissions tools we currently offer or those still on the horizon, what doesn't change is our commitment: to excellence, fairness, integrity, and service to the bar admissions and legal education communities and to the profession as a whole.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith A. Gundersen  
NCBE President and CEO



# The Road to the NextGen Bar Exam

## NextGen Research Advances

In January, over 4,000 final-year law students and recent law graduates at 88 volunteer law schools took part in a nationwide NextGen field test. NCBE researchers analyzed the results to gather data about new question types, the timing of the exam, and how questions performed across different groups. The field test also provided an opportunity to study how jurisdiction graders will be affected by the transition to the NextGen bar exam. A research brief summarizing the results of the field test was published in October. A report on the first stage of NextGen research testing, pilot testing, was published in June.

Nearly 20,000 examinees pretested new NextGen questions during the February 2024 administration of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). In October, more than 2,000 participants in 32 jurisdictions sat for a nine-hour prototype exam designed to mimic a full-length NextGen bar exam administration. Over 750 of these participants, as well as 61 jurisdiction administrators, also took part in prototype exam user experience research. The prototype exam generated key data that will be used to help jurisdictions set passing scores for the NextGen exam. Prototype exam findings will be published in 2025.

NCBE will also perform additional research and testing in 2025, provide tools to support jurisdiction passing-score decisions for the new exam, and begin building user portals for candidates and jurisdictions.

### 2025

- Additional pilot and user experience testing
- Base scale and concordance table set
- Standard-setting study
- Candidate and jurisdiction user portal development

### 2026

- End-to-end testing
- Ongoing user portal optimization
- First administration of NextGen bar exam (July), concurrent with legacy bar exam

### 2027

- NextGen bar exam and legacy bar exam administered concurrently

### 2028

- Last administration of legacy bar exam (February)

continued >



## NextGen Bar Exam continued

### NextGen<sup>®</sup> Bar Exam of the Future

The NextGen section of the NCBE website provides a wealth of information to help candidates, law schools, and jurisdictions prepare for the transition to the new exam.

Visit [ncbex.org/exams/nextgen](https://ncbex.org/exams/nextgen) for NextGen jurisdiction information, content scope outlines, sample questions, and more.

## Family Law Subject Matter Outline Published

NCBE's Family Law Content Scope Panel, comprised of distinguished experts in family law from across the United States, was convened in February. (Family law was added in 2023 to the list of Foundational Concepts and Principles to be tested on the NextGen bar exam.) The family law subject matter outline was published in November following the release of an initial draft of the outline in July and a public comment period. The outline delineates the specific topics within family law to be assessed on the NextGen exam starting in July 2028. Additional guidance was also provided in July regarding the inclusion of family law and trusts and estates on the NextGen bar exam.

## New Study Materials Released

In late 2024, two new NextGen practice sets were provided at no charge to law schools and jurisdictions; the practice sets were also published on BarNow, NCBE's online study aids platform. Each practice set includes two integrated question sets, 40 standalone multiple-choice questions, and a performance task.

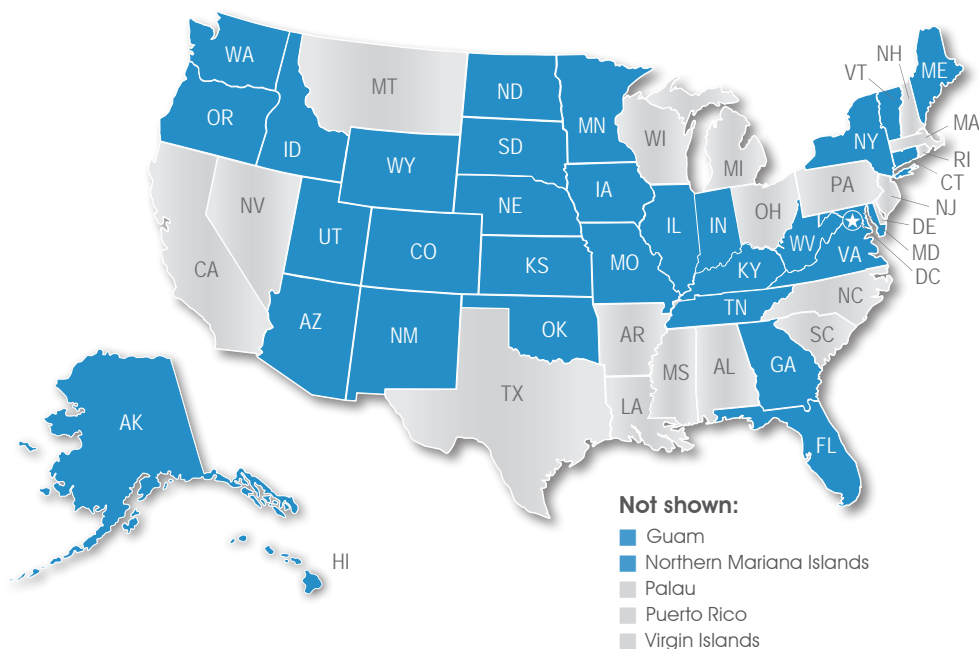
All NextGen sample questions and study aids can be accessed through the NCBE website at [ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/sample-questions](https://ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/sample-questions). NCBE will publish additional NextGen study materials in 2025 and 2026.





## NextGen Jurisdictions

The NextGen bar exam will debut in a limited number of jurisdictions in July 2026. Additional jurisdictions will begin administering the exam in 2027 and 2028. 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).



**33** jurisdictions have adopted the NextGen bar exam as of February 10, 2025.

20 jurisdictions adopted the NextGen bar exam in 2024.

## First Administration Dates of NextGen Jurisdictions

July 2026	July 2027	February 2028	July 2028
Connecticut, Guam, Maryland, Missouri, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Washington	Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming	District of Columbia	Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, New York, Utah, Virginia

First administration date for Illinois (2028) is to be announced.

continued >



## NextGen 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 NextGen bar exam. NCBE also hosted quarterly online roundtables for jurisdiction high-court justices to discuss emerging topics related to the development and administration of the NextGen exam.

Additionally, NCBE staff 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 2024 Annual Meeting (Washington DC, January 3–6)
- AccessLex Building Bar Skills Conference (Philadelphia, April 15–17)
- Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Conference (Boise, May 20–23)
- Pre-Law Advisors National Council 2024 Quadrennial Conference (New Orleans, June 10–13)
- American Bar Association 2024 Deans' Workshop (Seattle, July 16–19)
- National Conference of Bar Presidents 2024 Annual Meeting (Chicago, August 1–3)
- 2024 Arkansas Law Review Symposium (Fayetteville, September 20)
- LexCon '24 (Salt Lake City, November 12–14)
- University of Baltimore School of Law (Baltimore, December 11)
- New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners Public Forum (Concord, December 12)

# NCBE Exams

**54** jurisdictions required the **MBE** in 2024.

**48** jurisdictions required the **MEE** in 2024.

**50** jurisdictions required the **MPT** in 2024.

**69,340** **MBE** examinees in 2024

**49,382** **MEE** examinees in 2024

**51,372** **MPT** examinees in 2024

## MBE Snapshot

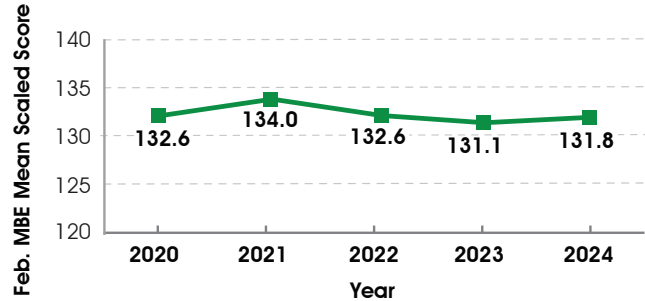
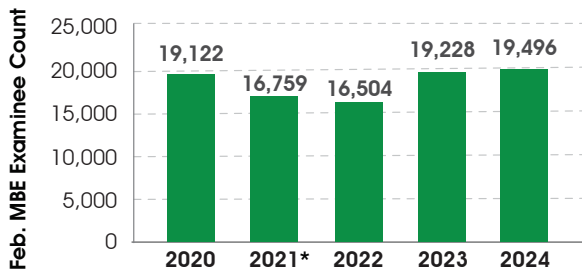
Multistate Bar Examination

February 2024 MBE Examinees: **19,496**

February 2024 MBE Mean Score: **131.8**

Number of February MBE Examinees, 2020–2024

February MBE Mean Score, 2020–2024



\*161 additional examinees took a makeup multiple-choice exam in Texas in March 2021 for local admission only.

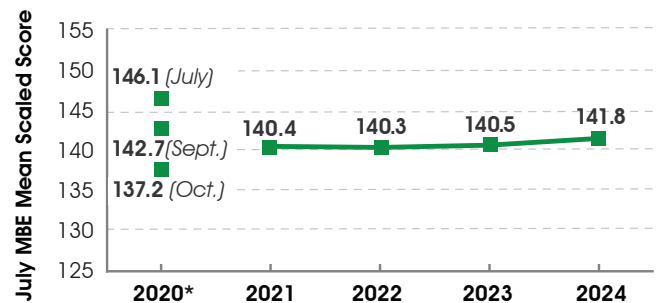
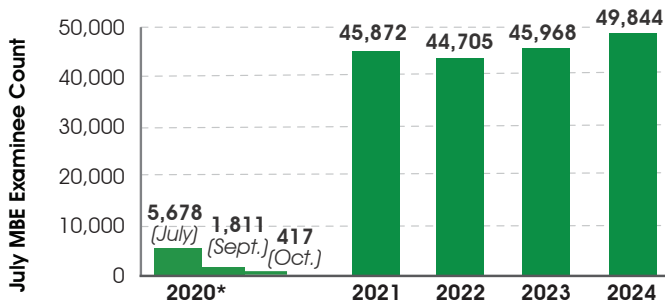
MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 1/15/25.

July 2024 MBE Examinees: **49,844**

July 2024 MBE Mean Score: **141.8**

Number of July MBE Examinees, 2020–2024

July MBE Mean Score, 2020–2024



\*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 1/15/25.

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?**

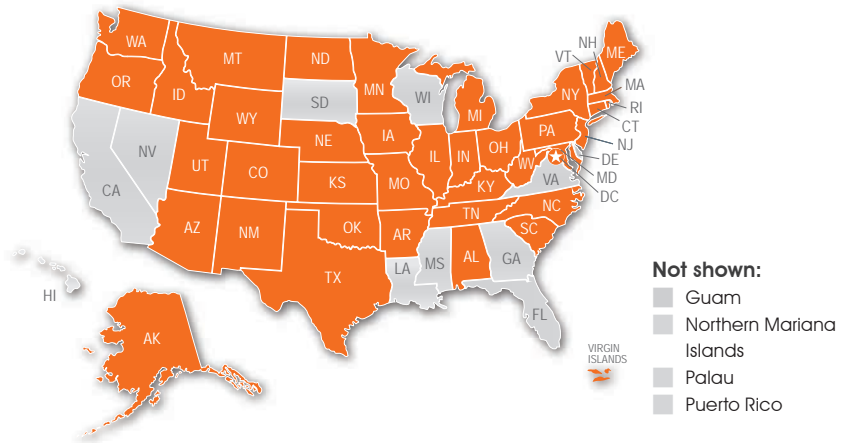
There are 56 US jurisdictions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

**UBE Snapshot**

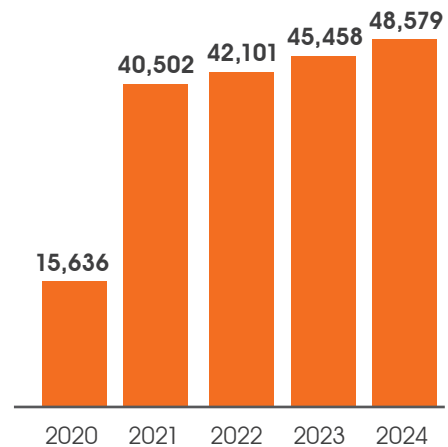
Uniform Bar Examination

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

**41** jurisdictions have adopted the UBE.



**Number of UBE Scores Earned by Year, 2020–2024**



**Total UBE Scores Earned and Transferred as of January 1, 2025**



**327,864 total UBE scores earned**



**65,849 total UBE scores transferred**

# MPRE Snapshot

Multistate Professional  
Responsibility Examination



**54** jurisdictions required  
the **MPRE** in 2024.



**58,859** MPRE examinees  
in 2024

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.

## 2024 MPRE examinees by administration:



**21,029**  
March  
examinees



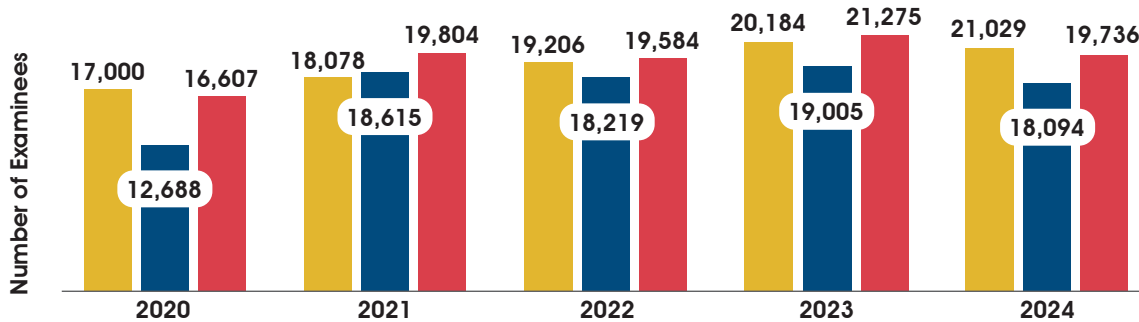
**18,094**  
August  
examinees



**19,736**  
November  
examinees

## Number of MPRE Examinees, 2020–2024

■ March Exam ■ August Exam ■ October/November Exam



The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 1/15/25.

## 2024 MPRE mean scores by administration:

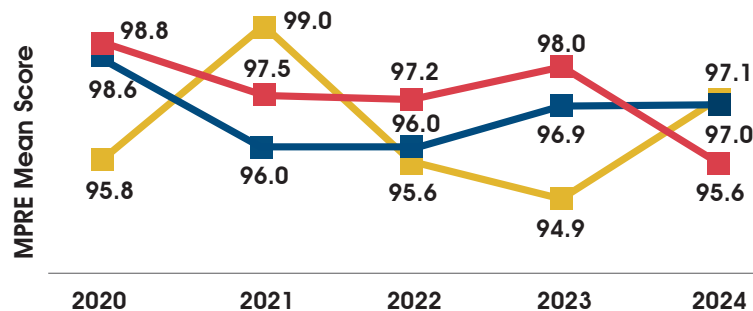
**97.1** March  
mean score

**97.0** August  
mean score

**95.6** November  
mean score

## MPRE Mean Scores, 2020–2024

■ March Exam ■ August Exam ■ October/November Exam



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

MPRE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 50 to 150. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 1/15/25.

# Jurisdiction Services

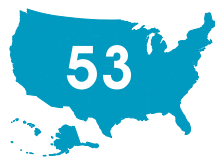
## Character and Fitness Investigations



NCBE conducted **13,993** character and fitness investigations on behalf of **29** jurisdictions in 2024.



**26** jurisdictions used our online Character Report Application in 2024.



**53** jurisdictions used our Online Verification system in 2024.



**42** jurisdictions participated in our Cross-Reference service in 2024.

**In 2024, enhancements to NCBE's online Character Report Application** helped streamline the submission process for applicants and reduce processing times. Review of the NCBE standard character application also continued this year; a draft of the revised application is expected to be available for review in 2025.

## 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.

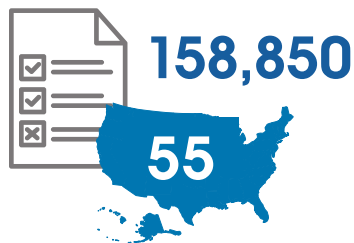


## Psychometric Services

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

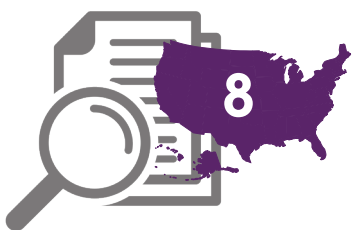


In 2024, NCBE scored, equated, scaled, and performed other statistical analyses on **158,850** exams for **55** jurisdictions.



**42** jurisdictions used our score scaling services in 2024.

### Research and Cheating Analysis



In 2024, NCBE provided research support (including analyses related to suspected cheating) for **8** 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 **49,044** support inquiries in 2024.

## Score Services in 2024

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

**25,428**

25,428 **MPRE scores**  
**transferred** to jurisdictions

**8,077**

8,077 **MPRE score transcripts**  
**released** to examinees

**UBE**  
Uniform Bar Examination

**11,082**

11,082 **UBE score transcripts**  
**transferred** to jurisdictions

**2,591**

2,591 **UBE score transcripts**  
**released** to examinees

**MBE**  
Multistate Bar Examination

**388**

388 **MBE scores transferred**  
to jurisdictions

**372**

372 **MBE scores released**  
to examinees





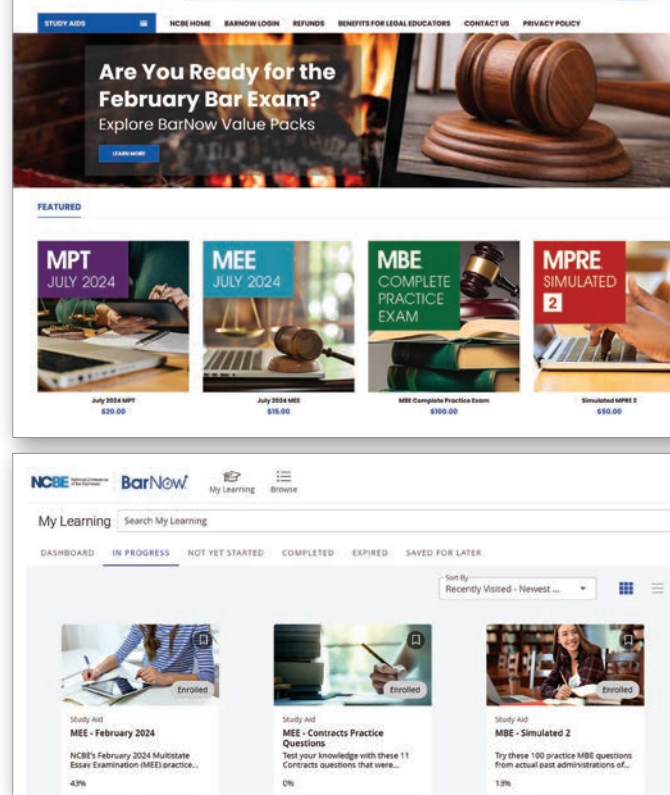
## BarNow

NCBE provides authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions on BarNow, its mobile-friendly, interactive online study aids platform. In 2024, increased outreach and a redesigned storefront helped even more candidates access our affordable study aids. Simulated MPRE 3, the latest addition to BarNow’s MPRE study aid offerings, will be published in early 2025.

**5,343** bar exam study aids were purchased in 2024.

**2,124** MPRE study aids were purchased in 2024.

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.



## Improving Access to the Profession

2024 marked the seventh year of NCBE’s ongoing partnership with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO). The partnership supports the NCBE/CLEO Bar Passage Program, which 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 750 students have received support from the program since it began.

The Fall 2024 issue of *The Bar Examiner* included interviews with four pre-law and law students about their experiences as participants in CLEO programming.

# 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 ABAC2024**  
Annual Bar Admissions Conference

## Annual Bar Admissions Conference

NCBE held its 2024 Annual Bar Admissions Conference in Chicago on May 2–5. The conference welcomed 401 attendees, including 103 first-time participants and 51 justices, representing a total of 56 jurisdictions. The conference’s three plenary sessions addressed topics such as key education, examination, and employment factors affecting future legal professionals; the intersection of artificial intelligence with legal ethics; and the differing generational perspectives that will shape the future of the legal profession.

## Webinars

### Grading Fundamentals Webinars

These webinars for graders, part of the MEE/MPT Grading Workshops held after the February and July bar exams, provided a comprehensive overview of how to approach grading the MEE and MPT suitable for both new graders and experienced veterans.



### NextGen Testing/Grading Platform Q&A

This Q&A session provided an opportunity for jurisdiction administrators to learn more about the features and functionality of the NextGen exam delivery system and dedicated grading platform.



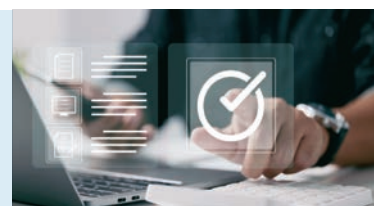
### NextGen 101 for Legal Educators

This webinar, led by law school faculty drafters for the NextGen bar exam and NCBE staff, provided tips for legal educators about how to effectively present and explain the content and skills that NextGen will test, the timeline for implementation, and implications for curriculum and study aids.



### Demonstration and Discussion of the NextGen Platform

This webinar for bar administrators provided an overview of the NextGen exam delivery platform, with time for discussion and questions.





## 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

**4** Board of Trustees meetings

20

**20** Policy Committee meetings

26

**26** Drafting Committee meetings

## Additional Events in 2024

### MEE/MPT 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. 673 attendees from 45 jurisdictions participated in the February Grading Workshop, and 712 attendees from 47 jurisdictions participated in the July Grading Workshop.

### NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting

From August 8 to 11, 115 attendees from 43 jurisdictions gathered in Brooklyn, New York, for the 2024 NCBE and Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA) Annual Meeting. Plenary session topics included a NextGen bar exam update, admission on motion in a post-COVID-19 world, and civility and misconduct issues throughout the bar admissions process.

### CBAA Fall Meeting

The Council of Bar Admission Administrators held its Fall Meeting in Portland, Maine, on November 7–10, with 90 participants from 38 jurisdictions in attendance. Plenary session topics included a NextGen bar exam update, character and fitness issues from a law school dean's perspective, and insights gained from candidate post-examination data.

## NextGen Meetings

In 2024, NextGen drafting committees met frequently to write and review questions for the new exam. Other NextGen committees also met regularly throughout the year. In addition, NCBE coordinated field and prototype testing planning meetings, as well as meetings for NextGen stakeholder groups, including a quarterly update for jurisdiction high court justices and a workgroup for jurisdictions preparing to administer the NextGen exam in July 2026.

54

**54** NextGen meetings



# Partnering *with* Law Schools

## Preparing for the NextGen Bar Exam

The extensive NextGen research testing NCBE performed in 2024 would not have been possible without the help of law schools. Eighty-eight law schools generously provided space on their campuses for the field test in January, and law schools across the country helped connect NCBE researchers with students and recent graduates who participated in the field test and the prototype exam.

NCBE and law schools are working together to ensure that faculty, staff, and students will be ready when the first jurisdictions begin administering the NextGen bar exam in July 2026. NCBE is providing law schools with free access to NextGen practice questions to help them prepare their students, and NCBE leadership met throughout the year with law school administrators, faculty, and staff and presented at legal education conferences to share information and answer questions about the NextGen exam.

## 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 (ABA).

**Jurisdiction pass/fail reports:** Twenty-six jurisdictions coordinate with NCBE to disseminate essential pass/fail reports to law schools. As jurisdictions release these reports to NCBE, we in turn forward them to all ABA-accredited US law schools.

**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. One hundred fifty-one law schools currently participate in this program.

## Bar Examiner Resources for Law Students and Educators

*The Bar Examiner* published a number of articles in 2024 that provide guidance and information for legal educators, law students, and recent graduates, including a quarterly column that addresses frequently asked questions about bar admissions. These articles are available at [thebarexaminer.org](https://thebarexaminer.org):

- [The NextGen Bar Exam Is Coming: Is Your Law School Curriculum Ready?](#)
- [Six Things I Wish Applicants Knew About Admission by Transferred UBE Score](#)
- [FAQs About Bar Admissions: Answering Questions About: Transferring UBE Scores Between Jurisdictions](#)
- [FAQs About Bar Admissions: I passed the bar exam! When can I call myself a lawyer?](#)
- [FAQs About Bar Admissions: Answering Questions About: NCBE Account Access](#)
- [FAQs About Bar Admissions: Answering Questions About: MPRE Score Services](#)

# NCBE Staff *and* Volunteers

## NCBE Volunteers: A Wider Impact



In April, **Judge Phyllis D. Thompson** was honored by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) with a CLEO EDGE award. Judge Thompson, a Senior Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, is a former member of the NCBE Board of Trustees and currently sits on NCBE's *Bar Examiner* Editorial Advisory Committee, NextGen Implementation Steering Committee, and MBE Committee; she also chaired NCBE's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for many years.



In November, NCBE announced the establishment of the **Diane F. Bosse Award for Excellence and Service in Bar Admissions**, which will honor a bar examiner who demonstrates leadership, integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to serving the legal profession through bar admissions in their

own jurisdiction and beyond. The award was established in memory of Diane F. Bosse, a former chair of the New York Board of Law Examiners and NCBE's Board of Trustees, who passed away suddenly on March 17, 2024. It is intended to recognize a jurisdiction bar examiner or board member who emulates the ideals that Diane embodied—leadership, vision, integrity, and extraordinary service in bar admissions.

NCBE continued to add new staff in 2024 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.

- **154** NCBE staff members
- **12** Board of Trustees members from **11** jurisdictions
- **116** drafting committee members (including **45** NextGen drafting committee members) from **35** jurisdictions, including faculty members from **61** law schools
- **90** policy committee members from **43** jurisdictions



# 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. NCBE also supports graduate student and faculty research related to testing and measurement through two annual research awards.

## 2024 Research Presentations

- **McKinley, D.** "Dismantling Assessment Injustice: Reconceptualizing Consequential Validity, Assessment Fairness, and Measurement Considerations in the Professions." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **McKinley, D.,** session discussant. "Validity Evidence Across Professional Education Settings." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- Schultz, M., **Reshetar, R., Zhang, M., Weiner, D.** & Goodman, J. "Pipeline Trends in Certification and Licensure: Psychometric Implications." National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting.
- **Symes, H.** "From Law Student to Lawyer: Using Qualitative Methods to Identify Barriers to the Profession." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- **Symes, H.,** session discussant. "Reconsidering Diversity in Admissions: Strength-Based Approaches in a Post-Affirmative Action World." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **Symes, H.** "Thinking Aloud During the NextGen Bar Exam." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- **Wang, X. & Zhang, M.** "Comparing CUSUMs Using Z-scores and Model-Based Residuals for Detecting Aberrant Responses." National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting.

## 2024 NCBE Research Award Recipients

### Covington Award:

**Juyoung Jung**, University of Iowa. "Investigating Psychometric Properties of Scale Scores on Mixed-Format Tests Using IRT."

*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.*

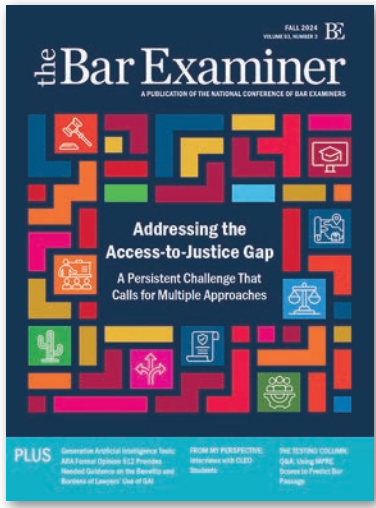
### Validity and Fairness Research Award:

**Jade Caines Lee**, University of Kansas. "The HBCU Effect: Examining Factors Related to First-Time Bar Passage for HBCU Law School Alumni."

**Brian Sites**, University of Miami. "Bar Passage Indicators and Best Practices for International LLM & JD Students."

*The NCBE Validity and Fairness Research Award is intended to provide support for graduate students and faculty in any discipline whose research identifies aspects of validity evidence including, but not limited to, scoring, response processes, and the impact of licensure and certification testing.*

# Publications

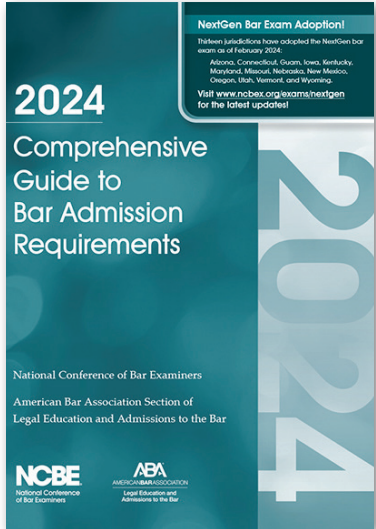


## The Bar Examiner Magazine and Website

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.



43,151 visits to The Bar Examiner website



## Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

The *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, published in collaboration with the ABA 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.

The online Guide ([reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide](http://reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide)) is updated throughout the year; in addition, a print version is published annually and is available for purchase at the NCBE Study Aids Store ([store.ncbex.org](http://store.ncbex.org)).



54,938 visits to the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements website

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