

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners released the results of the February 2024 New York State Bar Examination today. The results were posted to the applicants secure accounts in the Applicant Services Portal.

The graduates of New York law schools outperformed their counterparts from out-of-state ABA-approved law schools. The passing rate for the 418 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2024 for the first time was 72%, which was an increase of 1% from the February 2023 examination. The passing rate for the 338 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2024 for the first time was 69%, which was an increase of 2% from last year.

The passing rate for the 756 graduates of all ABA-approved law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2024 was 71%, an increase of 2% for this cohort from last year.

There were 182 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program, and 169 passed for a passing rate of 93%, which is a significant increase from last year's passing rate of 87% for this cohort. This year's cohort is the largest number of participants since the inception of the Pro Bono Scholars

Program in 2015, and the passing rate of 93% is the second highest passing rate ever for this group and the highest since the February 2021 examination.

The Board examined a total of 3,962 candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the February 2024 bar examination. Of those candidates, 1,667 passed for an overall passing rate of 42%, an increase from the overall passing rate of 40% on the February 2023 examination. Foreign-educated candidates, totaling 1,912 or 48% of all exam takers, had a passing rate of 35%, an increase of 1% from last year. The pass rate for the 2,575 repeat takers who took the bar examination in February was 33%, an increase of 2% from last year's examination. Repeat takers accounted for 65% of all candidates who took the February 2024 examination, an increase from 63% of the candidate pool last year.

Passing rates for various groups of candidates are presented on the chart below.

| New York Bar Examination Pass Rates | February 2024 |
|--|----------------------|
| Pro Bono Scholars | 93% |
| All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers | 71% |
| New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers | 72% |
| Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers | 69% |
| Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers | 45% |
| All First Time-Takers | 59% |
| All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters) | 49% |
| All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters) | 35% |
| All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters) | 42% |
| All Repeaters | 33% |

A list of the candidates passing the February 2024 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at <https://www.nybarexam.org/> after 9:00 AM ET on April 25, 2024. Each successful candidate, who also has completed the New York Law Course and taken and passed both the New York Law Exam and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as required by the Rules of the New York State Court of Appeals, will be certified by the Board to the Appellate Division for admission to the bar. Each candidate must then appear before the Committee on Character and Fitness to be examined as to their character and fitness before being admitted to the bar.

The Board congratulates the candidates who were successful on the February 2024 bar examination.