

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2023 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The graduates of New York law schools outperformed their counterparts from out-of-state ABA-approved law schools. The passing rate for the 370 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2023 for the first time was 71%, which was an increase of 2% from the February 2022 examination. The passing rate for the 323 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2023 for the first time was 67%, which was a decrease of 1% from last year. The passing rate for the 693 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 2023 was 69%, the same passing rate for this cohort as last year.

There were 149 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program, and 130 passed for a passing rate of 87%, the same passing rate for this cohort as last year. This innovative program permits students to sit for the bar exam in their final year of law school in return for devoting their last semester of study to performing pro bono service through an approved clinical or externship program. This affords students the opportunity to learn vital practice skills and accelerate their admission to the bar while helping those who are unable to afford legal representation.

The Board examined a total of 3,660 candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the February 2023 bar examination. Of those candidates, 1,465 passed for an overall passing rate of 40%, down from the overall passing rate of 45% on the February 2022 examination. The decrease in the overall passing rate was largely attributable to the performance of the foreign-educated candidates and repeaters who sat for the examination. Foreign-educated candidates, totaling 1,829 or 50% of all exam takers, had a passing rate of 34%, which is down from last year's 40% pass rate for this cohort. While the passing rate for the 2,305 repeat takers who took the bar examination in February increased to 31% from last year's 30% pass rate, repeat takers accounted for 63% of all candidates who sat for the February 2023 examination, an increase from 53% 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 2023
Pro Bono Scholars	87%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	69%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	71%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	67%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	42%
All First Time-Takers	56%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	46%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	34%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	40%
All Repeaters	31%

A list of the candidates passing the February 2023 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org at approximately 4:00 PM ET on April 21, 2023. 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 2023 bar examination.