

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE **For release on November 4, 2009**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the July 2009 bar examination. The graduates of American Bar Association approved law schools taking the bar examination for the first time achieved a passing rate of 88.2%, believed to be the second highest passing rate ever recorded for that group.

The Board examined a record 11,532 candidates during the two days of testing conducted on July 28-29, 2009. The passing rate for all candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first time and repeat takers, was 72%. The passing rate for candidates who took the bar examination for the first-time was 80%.

The number of foreign-educated candidates sitting for the New York bar examination continues to rise. This July, 2,955 (25.6%) of the 11,532 candidates taking the examination were foreign-educated. The passing rate for all foreign educated candidates who took the examination was 38.5%.

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

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	July 2009
All Candidates	72.0%
First Time Takers	80.0%
ABA Graduates	83.6%
ABA Graduates - First Time Takers	88.2%
New York ABA Law Schools	83.2%
New York ABA Law Schools - First Time Takers	88.1%
Out of State ABA Law Schools	84.0%
Out of State ABA Law Schools - First Time Takers	88.3%
Foreign Educated	38.5%
Foreign Educated - First Time Takers	46.2%

Candidates are being given electronic notification of their examination results on Thursday, November 5, 2009. A complete list of candidates passing the July 2009 bar examination will be made available to the public on the Board's website, at www.nybarexam.org, at 9:00 am on Friday, November 6, 2009. Successful candidates are certified for admission to the Appellate Division and must appear before the Committee on Character and Fitness appointed by the appropriate Appellate Division to be examined as to their character and fitness before being admitted to the bar. Candidates are not certified for admission until the Board receives proof that they have successfully completed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as required by the Rules of the New York State Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law.

The Board congratulates the candidates who were successful on the July 2009 bar examination.