

# New York State Board of Law Examiners

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For release on April 26, 2016**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2016 bar examination. The Board examined 4,193 candidates during the two days of testing conducted on February 23-24, 2016. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results earlier today.

The number of graduates from American Bar Association accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2016 was 802 and the passing rate for this group was 67%.

The passing rate for all candidates, including candidates who received their legal education in the United States and foreign-educated candidates, first time and repeat takers, was 41%. The number of foreign-educated candidates sitting for the New York bar examination was 1,848, which accounts for 44% of all candidates who took the February 2016 examination. This is the largest number of foreign-educated candidates ever examined for a February administration of the New York bar examination. The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates was 30%.

The February 2016 bar examination marked the second year of the Pro Bono Scholars Program. This innovative program, announced by former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, 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 for the poor 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. There are 107 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program - - 60 participants sat for the New York bar examination and 47 participants took the Uniform Bar Examination in New Hampshire under a special arrangement with the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Of the 60 Pro Bono Scholars who sat for the February bar examination in New York, 52 passed for a passing rate of 87%.

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

<b>New York Bar Examination Passing Rates</b>	<b>February 2016</b>
Pro Bono Scholars	87%
All ABA Graduates - First Time Takers	67%
Foreign-Educated - First Time Takers	34%
All First Time Takers	55%
All ABA Graduates (first time takers & repeaters)	49%
All Foreign-Educated (first time takers & repeaters)	30%
All Candidates - First Time Takers and Repeaters	41%

A complete list of the candidates who passed the February 2016 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org) on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Successful candidates are certified for admission to the Appellate Division and must appear before the Committee on Character and Fitness 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 February 2016 bar examination.

This was the last administration of the traditional New York State Bar Examination, as New York will begin administering the Uniform Bar Examination with this July's examination. There are 22 jurisdictions that have now adopted the Uniform Bar Examination.