

# New York State Board of Law Examiners

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For release on April 26, 2017**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2017 bar examination. The Board examined a total of 4,162 candidates, including domestic-educated and foreign-educated candidates, first-time takers and repeaters, during the two days of testing conducted on February 21-22, 2017.

The passing rate for graduates of American Bar Association accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2017 was 71%, an increase of 4% from the February 2016 examination. The passing rate for graduates of New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2017 for the first time was 69%, which is an increase of 6% from last year. The number of graduates from ABA-accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2017 was 903, which was 101 more than last year.

There were 1,792 foreign-educated candidates who sat for the bar examination in February, which accounts for 43% of all candidates who sat for the examination. The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates was 34%, an increase of 4% from last year.

Of the 4,162 candidates examined on the February examination, 1,822 passed for an overall pass rate of 44%, which is an increase of 4% from the February 2016 examination.

This was the second administration of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in New York - - the UBE was first administered in New York last July. There are now 27 jurisdictions that

have adopted the UBE. Candidates can use their score on the UBE achieved in one jurisdiction to seek admission in other jurisdictions that have adopted the test. If the score achieved in the testing jurisdiction satisfies the required score of the jurisdiction in which admission is sought, the candidate can be admitted without the necessity of taking a second bar examination, subject only to satisfying local character and fitness and any other requirements.

The February 2017 bar examination marked the third 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 96 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program. Of the 96 Pro Bono Scholars who sat for the February bar examination, 83 passed for a passing rate of 86%.

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

<b>New York Bar Examination Pass Rates</b>	<b>February 2017</b>
Pro Bono Scholars	86%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	71%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	69%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	71%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	46%
All First-Time Takers	61%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	52%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	34%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	44%

The candidates received electronic notification of their examination results on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. A list of candidates passing the February 2017 bar examination will

be available to the public on the Board's website at [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org) on Thursday, April 27, 2017. 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 the candidates have successfully completed the New York Law Course and have taken and passed the New York Law Exam and 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 2017 bar examination.