

# New York State Board of Law Examiners

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For release on November 13, 2008**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that the passing rate for graduates of New York's 15 law schools taking the bar examination for the first time in July 2008 was 91.0%. This surpasses the historically high passing rate achieved by this same group who took the July 2007 examination by 2.8%.

The graduates of New York's law schools again outperformed their counterparts who graduated from American Bar Association approved law schools outside of New York. The passing rate for graduates of such law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in New York this July was 90.0%.

The Board examined a record 11,176 candidates during the two days of testing conducted on July 29-30, 2008. The passing rate for all candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first time and repeat takers, was 74.7%. This represents a 4.1% increase in the overall passing rate from July 2007.

Passing rates for all groups of candidates taking the July 2008 bar examination generally increased over the passing rates for July 2007, with the passing rate for foreign-educated candidates taking the bar examination for the first time showing the largest increase. The passing rate for that group increased 9.2%, from 45.6% in July 2007 to 54.8% this year.

Foreign-educated candidates accounted for 25.7% of the total group of candidates this year, as compared to 24% in July 2007.

Passing rates for various groups of candidates, as compared to the results on the July 2007 bar examination are demonstrated on the chart below.

<b>New York Bar Examination Pass Rates - July 2008</b>			
	<b>July 2007</b>	<b>July 2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
All Candidates	70.6%	74.7%	4.1%
First Time Takers	79.1%	83.2%	4.1%
ABA Graduates	81.4%	85.1%	3.7%
ABA Graduates - First Time Takers	87.0%	90.5%	3.5%
New York ABA Law Schools	82.0%	85.1%	3.1%
New York ABA Law Schools - First Time Takers	88.2%	91.0%	2.8%
Out of State ABA Law Schools	80.6%	85.2%	4.6%
Out of State ABA Law Schools - First Time Takers	85.7%	90.0%	4.3%
Foreign Educated	37.0%	44.9%	7.9%
Foreign Educated - First Time Takers	45.6%	54.8%	9.2%

A complete list of candidates passing the July 2008 bar examination will be available on the Board's website, [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org), on Monday, November 17, 2008. Successful candidates are certified for admission to the Appellate Division and must appear before the committee 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 2008 bar examination.