

New York State Board of Law Examiners

Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Chair
Bryan A. Williams
Robert S McMillen
E. Leo Milonas
Michael Colodner

CORPORATE PLAZA-BUILDING 3
254 WASHINGTON AVENUE
EXTENSION
ALBANY, N.Y. 12203-5195
518-453-5990
FAX 518-452-5729
<https://www.nybarexam.org>

John J. McAlary
Executive Director

Contact Information: John McAlary
(518) 453-5990

PRESS RELEASE **For release on December 16, 2020**

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, this year the in-person bar examination normally administered in July was cancelled and replaced with an emergency remote bar examination administered on October 5-6, 2020. Despite the many challenges involved in administering the first remote bar examination in New York, more than 5,100 candidates were tested. Today, the New York State Board of Law Examiners announced the results: of 5,150 candidates who took the October remote exam, 4,319 passed for an overall passing rate of 84%. The passing rate for the 4,016 Juris Doctor graduates of American Bar Association accredited law schools who took the exam for the first time in October 2020 was 89%. The passing rate for the 987 applicants who obtained their first degree in law in a foreign country and an LL.M. degree from an ABA-accredited law school and took the exam for the first time in October 2020 was 70%. Passing rates for various groups of candidates are presented in the attached chart.

In addition to the more than 4,300 successful candidates who passed the New York exam, candidates who took the test in other Uniform Bar Exam jurisdictions may transfer passing scores to New York. To date 351 candidates have transferred a passing score from one of those jurisdictions. The Board appreciates the cooperation of those jurisdictions in entering reciprocity agreements that made this transfer possible.

A list of candidates passing the October 2020 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 10:00 am Eastern Time on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results earlier today. 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 his or her character and fitness before being admitted to the bar.

The Board acknowledges that the pandemic added significant challenges for this year's graduates, including the delayed administration of the July exam, and we are grateful for their patience and cooperation. The Board would also like to thank the National Conference of Bar Examiners for making available the test questions for the remote bar examination.

The Board congratulates the 4,319 candidates who were successful on the October 2020 bar examination and is grateful to all those who helped make this most challenging bar administration a success.

**NEW YORK STATE BAR EXAMINATION
OCTOBER 2020 REMOTE EXAM PASSING RATES**

FIRST TIME

	Took	Pass	% Pass
NY ABA Law Schools	2915	2535	87%
Out of State ABA Law Schools	1101	1024	93%
All ABA Law Schools	4016	3559	89%
Foreign-Educated/LLMs	987	694	70%
Law Office Study	1	1	100%
All Candidates	5004	4254	85%

REPEATERS

	Took	Pass	% Pass
NY ABA Law Schools	112	51	46%
Out of State ABA Law Schools	34	14	41%
All ABA Law Schools	146	65	45%
Foreign Educated/LLMs	0	0	0%
Law Office Study	0	0	0%
All Candidates	146	65	45%

ALL TAKERS

	Took	Pass	% Pass
NY ABA Law Schools	3027	2586	85%
Out of State ABA Law Schools	1135	1038	91%
All ABA Law Schools	4162	3624	87%
Foreign Educated/LLMs	987	694	70%
Law Office Study	1	1	100%
All Candidates	5150	4319	84%