

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2020 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The graduates of New York law schools outperformed their counterparts from out-of-state ABA-approved law schools. The passing rate for the 340 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2020 for the first time is 74%, which is an increase of 2% from last February, and the highest passing rate for this group for a February administration since 2010. The passing rate for the 426 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2020 for the first time is 70%, which is a decrease of 2% from last year. The passing rate for the 766 graduates of all ABA-approved law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2020 is 72%, the same passing rate for this cohort as last year.

The Board examined a total of 3,563 candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the two days of testing conducted on February 25-26, 2020. Of those candidates, 1,430 passed for an overall passing rate of 40%, down from the overall passing rate of 45% on the February 2019 examination. The decrease in the overall passing rate is largely attributable to the performance

of the repeat-takers and foreign-educated candidates who sat for the examination. The passing rate for the 2,254 repeat takers of the bar examination in February is 28%. Repeat takers accounted for 64% of all candidates who sat for the February 2020 examination. Foreign-educated candidates, totaling 1,649 or 46% of all candidates, had a passing rate of 31%.

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

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2020
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	72%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	74%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	70%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	47%
All First Time-Takers	61%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	48%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	31%
All Repeaters	28%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	40%

A list of candidates passing the February 2020 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 12:00 pm Eastern on Saturday, April 25, 2020. 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 congratulates the candidates who were successful on the February 2020 bar examination.