

# New York State Board of Law Examiners

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For tentative release on October 23, 2018**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the July 2018 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The passing rate for graduates of American Bar Association accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in July 2018 is 83%. The number of graduates from ABA-accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in July 2018 was 5,497, which is 243 fewer than last year and the lowest number since the July 2004 examination.

The Board examined a total of 9,679 candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first time and repeat takers, during the two days of testing conducted on July 24-25, 2018. This is 253 fewer candidates than last year, and the lowest number of candidates examined in a July administration since 2004 when the Board examined 9,555 candidates. Of the 9,679 examined in July, 6,095 passed for an overall passing rate of 63%. The number of foreign-educated candidates who sat for the bar examination in July was a record 3,232, which accounts for 33% of all candidates who sat for the July examination. The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates is 41%. Passing rates for various groups of candidates are presented on the chart below.

| <b>New York Bar Examination Pass Rates</b>           | <b>July 2018</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers                | 83%              |
| New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers             | 81%              |
| Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers         | 85%              |
| Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers                 | 50%              |
| All First Time-Takers                                | 74%              |
| All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)    | 74%              |
| All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters) | 41%              |
| All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)       | 63%              |

While the passing rates for various groups of candidates declined compared to their performance in July 2017, the passing rates are generally in line with recent results. For example, the passing rate for first-time takers who are graduates of ABA-approved law schools of 83% was the same rate achieved by that group in July 2016 and July 2014. The passing rate for that group on the July examination was 79% in 2015 and 86% in 2017.

A list of candidates passing the July 2018 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org) on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. 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 July 2018 bar examination.