

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE **For release on April 25, 2018**

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

The passing rate of the 357 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2018 for the first time was 70%, which is an increase of 1% from last February. The passing rate for the 882 graduates of all American Bar Association accredited law schools who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2018 was 69%, a decrease of 2% from the February 2017 examination.

The Board examined a total of 3,759 candidates, including domestic-educated and foreign-educated candidates, first-time takers and repeaters, during the two days of testing conducted on February 27-28, 2018. This is 403 fewer candidates than last February and the lowest number of candidates examined in a February administration since 2009. Of the 3,759 candidates examined on the February examination, 1,421 passed for an overall pass rate of 38%, which is lower than the overall pass rate of 44% for the February 2017 examination. Of the 2,349 repeaters, only 594 passed for a pass rate of 25%, which is lower than the repeaters pass rate of 34% for the February 2017 examination.

There were 1,632 foreign-educated candidates who sat for the bar examination in February, accounting for 43% of all candidates who sat for the examination. The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates was 28%, a decrease of 6% from last year.

The February 2018 bar examination marked the fourth year of the Pro Bono Scholars Program. This innovative program 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 were 119 participants in this year's program, the largest group since its inception, and 106 of them passed the February examination for a passing rate of 89%.

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

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2018
Pro Bono Scholars	89%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	70%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	69%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	68%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	42%
All First-Time Takers	59%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	45%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	28%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	38%

A list of candidates passing the February 2018 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 12:00 pm Eastern on Wednesday, April 25, 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. A candidate is not certified for admission until the

Board receives proof that the candidate has successfully completed the New York Law Course, a series of about 15 hours of on-line, video lectures emphasizing important and unique principles of New York law, and has taken and passed both the New York Law Exam, an on-line, open book test of 50 multiple choice questions testing New York law, and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, all 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 2018 bar examination.