

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 2022 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The passing rate for the 357 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2022 for the first time is 69%, a decrease of 8% from last February. The passing rate for the 360 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2022 for the first time is 68%, a decrease of 6% from last year. The passing rate for all 717 graduates of ABA-approved law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2022 is 69%, a decrease of 7% from last year.

There were 140 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program, and 122 of them passed for a passing rate of 87%. 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 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.

The Board examined a total of 3,068 candidates, including U.S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the two days of testing conducted in-person on February 22-23, 2022. Of those candidates, 1,378 passed for an overall passing rate of 45%, down from the overall passing rate of 49% on the February 2021 examination. The passing rate for the 1,610 repeat takers of the bar examination in February is 30%. Repeat takers accounted for 53% of all candidates who sat for the February 2021 examination, an increase from 49% from last year's pool of candidates. Foreign-educated candidates, totaling 1,476 or 48% of all candidates (an increase from 40% last year), had a passing rate of 40%.

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

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2022
Pro Bono Scholars	87%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	69%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	69%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	68%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	54%
All First Time-Takers	61%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	50%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	40%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	45%
All Repeaters	30%

A list of the candidates passing the February 2022 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 12:00 pm Eastern on Thursday, April 14, 2022. 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 2022 bar examination.