

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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April 24, 2019

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2019 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The passing rate for the 867 graduates of American Bar Association accredited law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2019 is 72%, an increase of 3% from the February 2018 examination. This is the highest passing rate for this group on a February examination since 2014. The passing rate of the 347 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2019 for the first time is also 72%, which is an increase of 2% from last February, and the highest passing rate for this group on a February examination since 2013.

The Board examined a total of 4,129 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 26-27, 2019. Of those candidates, 1,843 passed for an overall passing rate of 45%, which is a significant increase from the overall passing rate of 38% on the February 2018 examination, and the highest overall passing rate for a February examination since 2014.

The increase in the overall passing rate is largely attributable to the performance of the repeater-takers who increased their passing rate to 36% from last year's passing rate of 25%. The number of repeat candidates who sat for the bar examination in February was 2,627, which accounts for 64% of all candidates who sat for the February 2019 examination.

The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates who sat for the February 2019 examination is 35%. The number of foreign-educated candidates who sat for the bar examination in February was a record 1,885, or 46% of all candidates who sat for the February examination.

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

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2019
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	72%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	72%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	72%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	45%
All First Time-Takers	61%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	53%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	35%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	45%
All Repeaters	36%

A list of candidates passing the February 2019 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org on Thursday, April 25, 2019. 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 February 2019 bar examination.