

# New York State Board of Law Examiners

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For release on April 28, 2015**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2015 bar examination. The Board examined 3,997 candidates during the two days of testing conducted on February 24-25, 2015. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results on Monday, April 27, 2015.

The passing rate for graduates of New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2015 for the first time was 68%. The passing rate for graduates of out-of-state law schools who took the exam for the first time in February 2015 was 71%. The graduates of all law schools accredited by the American Bar Association who took the bar examination for the first time achieved a passing rate of 70%.

The passing rate for all candidates, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first time and repeat takers, was 43%.

The February 2015 bar examination marked the inauguration of the Pro Bono Scholars Program. This innovative program, announced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in his 2014 State of the Judiciary address, 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. Of the 106 Pro Bono Scholars who sat for the February 2015 examination, 90 passed the examination for a passing rate of 85%.

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

<b>New York Bar Examination Passing Rates</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
Pro Bono Scholars	85%
New York ABA Schools - First Time Takers	68%
Out-of-State ABA Schools - First Time Takers	71%
All ABA Graduates - First Time Takers	70%
Foreign-Educated - First Time Takers	29%
All Foreign-Educated	26%
All First Time Takers	56%
All Candidates - First Time Takers and Repeaters	43%

A complete list of candidates passing the February 2015 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org) on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. 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 they have successfully completed 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 2015 bar examination.