

2022

YEAR IN REVIEW



NCBE[®]
National Conference
of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical,
and diverse legal profession.



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National Conference
of Bar Examiners

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Madison, WI 53703

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The National Conference of Bar Examiners, founded in 1931, is a not-for-profit corporation that develops licensing tests for bar admission and provides character and fitness investigation services. NCBE also provides testing, research, and educational services to jurisdictions; provides services to bar applicants on behalf of jurisdictions; and acts as a national clearinghouse for information about the bar examination and bar admissions. In 2026, NCBE will launch the next generation of the bar examination, ensuring that the exam continues to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent entry-level legal practice in a changing profession.

Our mission

NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in admission to the legal profession for the benefit and protection of the public. We serve admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates by providing high-quality

- assessment products, services, and research;
- character investigations; and
- informational and educational resources and programs.

Our vision

A competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession

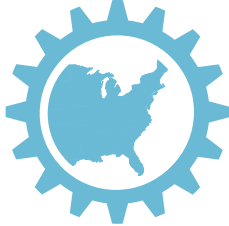
Our core values

NCBE is committed to

- excellence
- fairness
- integrity
- service



Who We Are and What We Do



Our Partnership with Jurisdictions

We develop and produce the licensing and professional responsibility tests used by most US jurisdictions for admission to the bar. We help jurisdiction bar admissions processes run well from start to finish by providing support and training to jurisdiction administrators and graders, providing scoring and research services after each exam and on an as-needed basis, and conducting character and fitness investigations on behalf of jurisdictions. We provide financial and professional support to the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA).



Our Support for Applicants

We help streamline the process of applying for bar admission by providing score services and other admission-related services to applicants on behalf of jurisdictions and providing NCBE Accounts that offer applicants a one-stop secure web portal. We offer study aids with authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions. Our website, www.ncbex.org, is a comprehensive resource for bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions and for information about our tests, character and fitness investigation services, score services, and study aids.



Our Collaboration with the Bar Admissions Community

We sponsor a wide range of educational events for jurisdiction bar examiners, bar admission administrators, and jurisdictions' highest courts, and we conduct ongoing research relevant to bar admissions testing, as well as providing support for graduate student research in this area. Our quarterly publication, the *Bar Examiner*, provides comprehensive, authoritative information about topics of interest to the bar admissions community.



Our Commitment to the Legal Education Community

We sponsor educational events for legal educators and publish news and information of interest to the legal education community. We work with organizations that support students preparing for law school and the bar, advancing our shared goals and building foundations for the future of the legal profession.

Letter from the NCBE Board Chair



Timothy Y. Wong
2022–2023 NCBE Board Chair

NCBE is pleased to provide the 2022 *Year in Review*. As you read through this eighth edition, I hope you gain appreciation for the exceptional work being done by the organization, its bar admissions partners, other stakeholders, and the many volunteers who serve on NCBE committees. I say exceptional because, as the *Year in Review* makes clear, the organization continues to update and improve its current portfolio of excellent products and services even as it prepares to deliver a new bar exam beginning in July 2026.

NCBE currently provides bar exam and Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam test materials to 55 jurisdictions, including 41 that have adopted the Uniform Bar Examination. The organization also offers jurisdictions and bar applicants invaluable support through its character and fitness investigation services, score services, and educational offerings, and by providing articles and information on topics of interest to the bar admissions and legal education communities. In addition, NCBE continues to support programs promoting diversity and inclusion and assisting students who are preparing to take the bar exam.

While continuing to deliver current bar exam products and services, NCBE is also devoting significant resources to building the next generation of the bar exam. This massive project, which started with the launch of a comprehensive study of the bar exam in 2018, continues to move forward. During the past year, content scope outlines have been published, prototype items have been drafted, and pilot testing has begun. As stakeholders have heard more about the NextGen exam, feedback has been positive, and interest continues to build. Last year, NCBE responded to multiple requests from state supreme courts, bar admissions staff, and other stakeholders asking for meetings with NCBE personnel to discuss the new exam.

One of the most gratifying aspects of serving on the NCBE Board has been seeing the bar admissions community rally around this NextGen work and contribute their talent to these efforts. The lion's share of credit goes to the talented and dedicated NCBE staff. But they would be the first to acknowledge that the work being done would not be possible without contributions from volunteers, including members of the drafting committees, policy committees, Jurisdiction Advisory Committee, and Content Scope Committee. These volunteers are bar examiners, judges, law school faculty, practitioners, and bar administrators from multiple jurisdictions, with various backgrounds and life experiences. That diversity of perspectives enriches our work and makes it better, always with an eye toward our mission of promoting fairness, integrity, and best practices in admission to the legal profession for the benefit and protection of the public. Thank you to everyone involved. I hope that as you read the 2022 *Year in Review*, you will be impressed by what has been done, and inspired to stay engaged and involved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Y. Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Y. Wong
2022–2023 NCBE Board Chair

Letter from the NCBE President



Judith A. Gundersen
NCBE President and CEO

One of the most lauded movies of the 2022 awards season was *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, the tale of a family whose lives are spread across multiple planes of existence, requiring them to persevere in an ever-changing world that blends the most mundane with the most extraordinary circumstances. While I won't claim that we were literally traveling between universes last year, NCBE's 2022 could certainly be titled *Much Work in Many Places on a Tight Timeline*, and I celebrate our accomplishments—all of them achieved without benefit of special effects or stunt doubles.

In 2022, we remained dedicated to the work at the core of our mission, providing high-quality exam materials, services, and educational information and resources. Support to jurisdictions was as all-encompassing as ever: our Test Operations team produced, shipped, and processed bar examination materials administered to tens of thousands of candidates across the country, and Assessment and Research staff scored, equated, scaled, and performed statistical analysis of more than 160,000 exams for 55 jurisdictions that used our bar exam materials or the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). NCBE's Character and Fitness Investigations team conducted over 15,000 character and fitness investigations, assisting 28 jurisdictions in their licensing decisions.

Our pre-exam commitment to candidates included free sample questions and low-cost study aids through our BarNow platform. Post exam, we facilitated the transfer of more than 9,500 Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) scores in a year when Pennsylvania became the 40th jurisdiction to begin administering the UBE. We also extended our support of candidates taking the MPRE, enabling earlier registration and offering the exam in Puerto Rico for the first time.

While staff did a beautiful job of maintaining the ongoing work of the Conference, our Implementation Steering Committee continued to lead the way forward to the NextGen bar exam. Outreach to jurisdictions, law schools, affiliate groups, and candidates ramped up through conference presentations, webinars, and many on-site and virtual discussions with boards, courts, and admissions staff. The NCBE Board of Trustees has been a tireless force in this effort to listen and to educate, and I appreciate their volunteer efforts, as well as those of the committee members who have done so much heavy lifting. And I can't say enough about the above-and-beyond efforts of NCBE staff, who have worked tirelessly to continue producing our current products and services while also devoting countless hours to the development of the NextGen exam. We've needed every soul to keep up the pace, but I am happy to report that NCBE did keep up with everything everywhere all at once in 2022, and we're braced to match it in 2023.

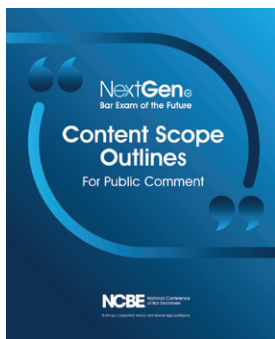
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith'.

Judith A. Gundersen
NCBE President and CEO

Moving the **Next Generation of the Bar Exam** Forward



Preliminary Content Scope Outlines Published



In March, NCBE published preliminary Content Scope Outlines for the next generation of the bar exam. The Content Scope Outlines describe in detail the topics and tasks to be assessed on the new exam. These topics and tasks have been identified as those that are most essential for newly licensed lawyers within the eight Foundational Concepts and

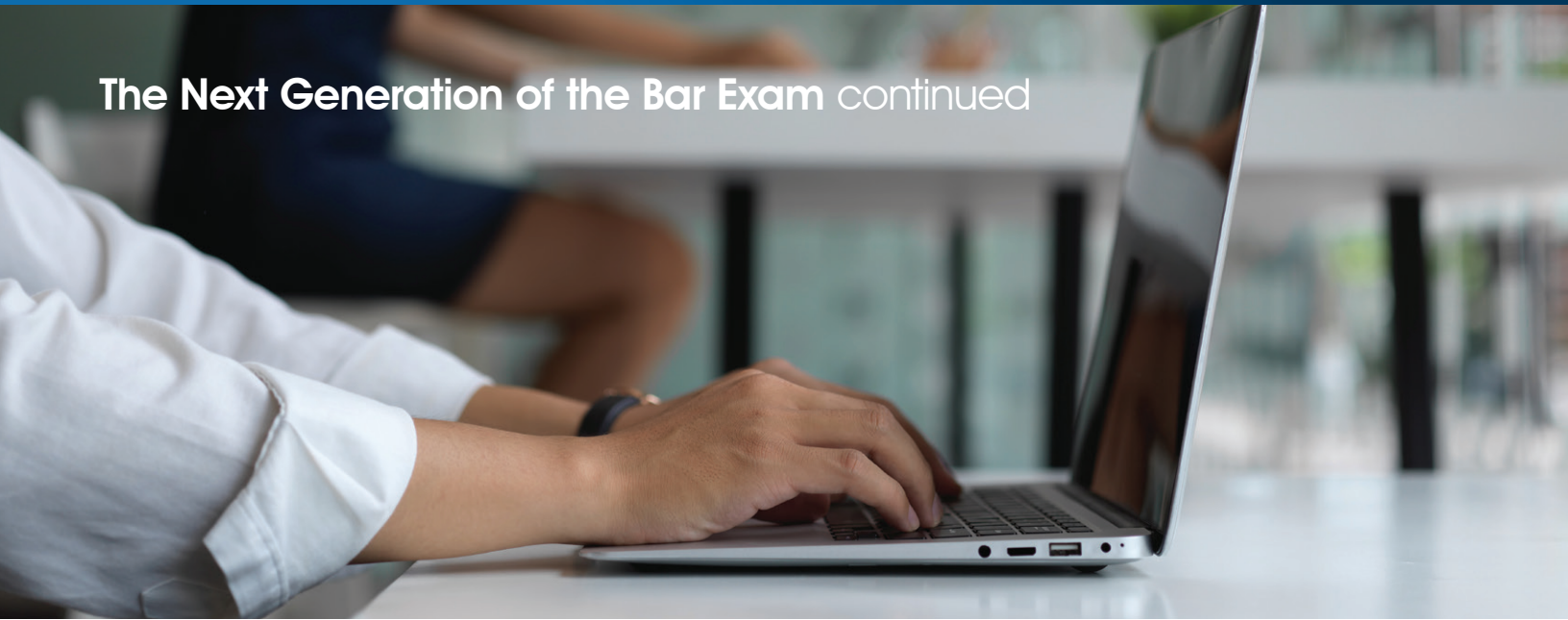
Principles and the seven Foundational Skills that will be tested on the new exam.

Members of the legal community were invited to review and comment on the outlines during a three-week public comment period; nearly 400 stakeholders—including law school deans, faculty, and administrators; practicing attorneys; judges and justices; law students; and bar examiners and admissions staff—submitted comments. A final version of the Content Scope Outlines will be published in mid-2023.



394 stakeholders submitted comments on the preliminary Content Scope Outlines during the public comment period.

The Next Generation of the Bar Exam continued



Introducing the Jurisdiction Advisory Committee

The Jurisdiction Advisory Committee (JAC) had its kickoff meeting on February 16, 2022. The JAC was created to ensure that jurisdiction perspectives would be heard regularly as NCBE develops and implements the next generation of the bar exam. JAC members help inform the policy decisions necessary to successfully launch the new exam and help NCBE gather input about specific topics from jurisdictions, law schools, and law students.

The Launch of Pilot Testing

NextGen test development entered a new phase with the launch of pilot testing in the summer. NCBE is collaborating with law schools from across the country on this phase of research, during which participants answer draft questions in a two- or three-hour session. Faculty are also being asked to provide their feedback.

This marks the first of multiple stages of testing that will put draft questions in front of law students and recent graduates. This testing will help NCBE evaluate the format, organization, and content of the new exam, being mindful of universal design principles and accessibility for diverse groups of candidates.



22 law schools

from across the country have participated in the initial rounds of NextGen pilot testing. Nearly 40% of ABA-approved law schools have volunteered to help test questions for the NextGen bar exam.



Expanded Outreach

NCBE staff met with courts and bar examiners throughout the year and presented at conferences and meetings around the country to discuss the transition to the NextGen bar exam. In September, legal educators from across the country were invited to attend a public webcast about the content and format of the NextGen bar exam. (A video of the presentation and Q&A is available on the NextGen website at nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org/content-of-the-nextgen-bar-exam/.)

An Updated Implementation Timeline

In December, NCBE published an updated implementation timeline for the NextGen bar exam. The timeline provides a high-level overview of the exam development process that is currently underway, from pilot testing to the first exam administration.

More to Come in 2023 and Beyond

The coming year will see exciting new developments in both exam development and outreach, including the launch of a new webinar series and the release of the final Content Scope Outlines, as we look toward the conclusion of pilot testing and the beginning of field testing.

Visit the Next Generation of the Bar Exam website at nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org for more information.

Updates to **Character and Fitness Tools**

In 2022, the NCBE Character and Fitness Investigations and Diversity and Inclusion Committees continued their evaluation of the NCBE character report application. This work will help ensure that the information the application collects is necessary and relevant to the assessment of applicant character for the purpose of bar admission while promoting a fair and equitable process for a diverse applicant population.

In 2023, NCBE will launch an updated and expanded version of its Online Verification System, which allows other organizations to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries. The updated system will make the service available, with enhanced features, to a wider range of users, including bar admission agencies, law schools, employers, and references.

The Character and Fitness Investigations Committee is evaluating a core repository concept that will enable applicants, as early as law school, to create an electronic file of character and fitness documents. Information in the core repository will be easily accessible from applicants' NCBE Accounts and transferable to any jurisdiction, regardless of whether they use NCBE's investigation services.

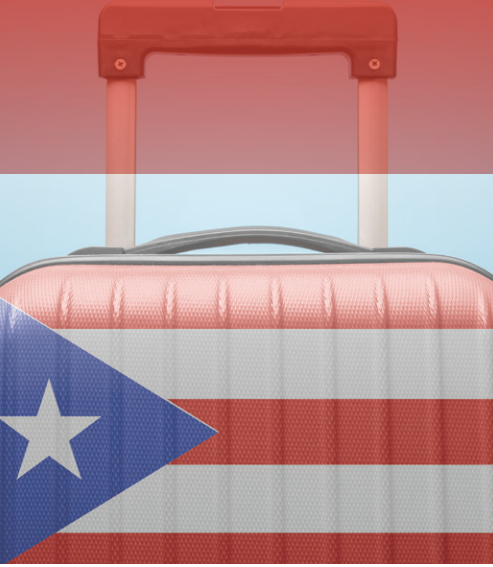
Progress in **Diversity, Fairness, and Inclusion Research**

In 2022, NCBE expanded its Diversity, Fairness, and Inclusion Research staff in support of NextGen exam development, as well as ongoing projects and partnerships intended to make a long-term impact on diversity, fairness, and inclusion in the field of bar admissions.

NCBE also continued its partnership with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) to help support increased diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. A multiyear partnership between CLEO and NCBE provides support for students as they prepare to take the bar exam; in 2022, CLEO staff, consultants, and volunteers offered bar passage support to over 300 students through educational programming, mentorship opportunities, and/or stipends.

More information on NCBE's commitment to diversity, fairness, and inclusion is available at ncbex.org/about/diversity-fairness-and-inclusion/.

Expanding Access to the MPRE



MPRE Offered in Puerto Rico

In August, NCBE began offering the MPRE at Pearson VUE testing centers in Puerto Rico. While Puerto Rico does not require passage of the MPRE for admission to its bar, making the MPRE available there allows candidates in Puerto Rico who wish to apply for admission in other jurisdictions to take the exam locally. Approximately 40 candidates took the MPRE in Puerto Rico in 2022.

MPRE Registration Opens Earlier

To support candidates who wish to plan for the MPRE further in advance, including candidates requesting test accommodations, registration for the MPRE now opens earlier than it did previously. Registration for the March 2023 MPRE opened in August, and registration for the August and November 2023 administrations opened in December.

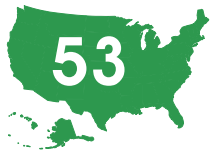
New **BarNow** Features

In September, NCBE began offering the free BarNow Demo Pack, which offers 30-day access to a selection of different practice questions on the BarNow platform at no charge. The Demo Pack includes three MBE questions taken from simulated exams, three MPRE questions plus answer explanations, one MPT item and Drafters' Point Sheet, and one MEE question and analysis.

The BarNow Learning Hub, which offers new tools for organizing study aids and tracking progress on BarNow, was launched in early 2023.



NCBE Exams



53 jurisdictions used the MBE in 2022.



47 jurisdictions used the MEE in 2022.



49 jurisdictions used the MPT in 2022.



61,209
MBE
examinees
in 2022



42,962
MEE
examinees
in 2022

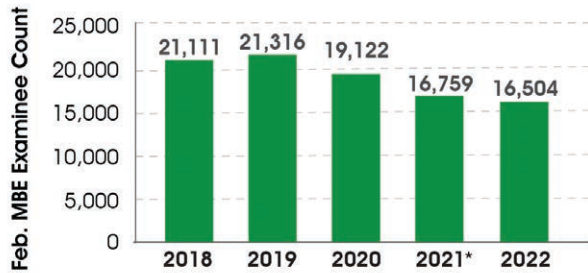


44,806
MPT
examinees
in 2022

MBE SNAPSHOT

February 2022 MBE Examinees: **16,504**

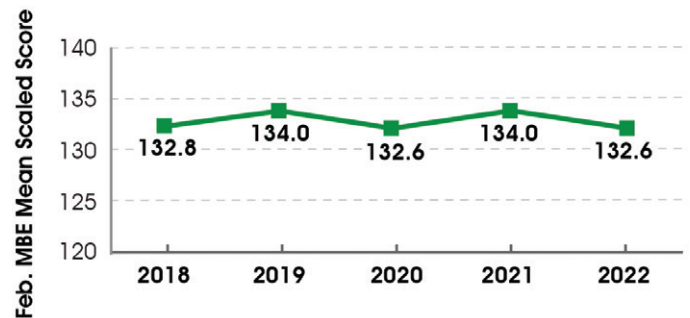
Number of February MBE Examinees, 2018–2022



*161 additional examinees took a makeup multiple-choice exam in Texas in March 2021 for local admission only as a result of severe weather that prevented them from taking the February 2021 MBE.

February 2022 MBE Mean Score: **132.6**

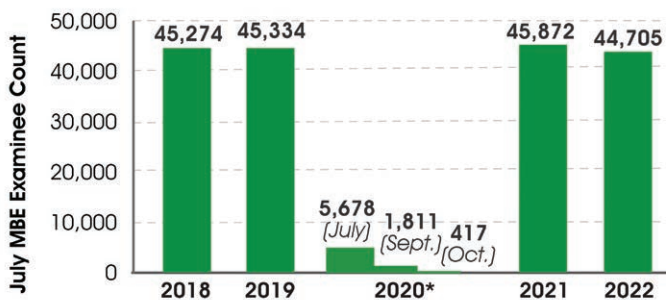
February MBE Mean Score, 2018–2022



MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/3/23.

July 2022 MBE Examinees: **44,705**

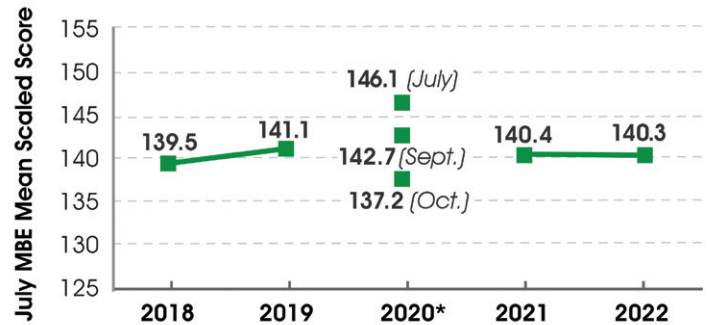
Number of July MBE Examinees, 2018–2022



*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the July 2020 MBE was administered on three separate dates: July 29, September 10, and October 1. The results shown are for in-person examinees only; approximately 29,000 additional examinees sat for a remotely administered exam using NCBE materials in October 2020. Comparability to other years' results may be limited due to the lower examinee count.

July 2022 MBE Mean Score: **140.3**

July MBE Mean Score, 2018–2022



MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/3/23.

The Multistate Bar Examination, Multistate Essay Examination, and Multistate Performance Test are administered by user jurisdictions as part of the bar examination in February and July each year.

Most jurisdictions use one or more of the bar exam components developed by NCBE:

The **Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)** is a 200-question multiple-choice exam that assesses the extent to which an examinee can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns.

The **Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)** is a six-question essay exam that tests an examinee’s ability to identify legal issues, separate relevant from irrelevant material, analyze the issues, and demonstrate an understanding of fundamental legal principles.

The **Multistate Performance Test (MPT)** consists of two performance tasks that test an examinee’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each item evaluates an examinee’s ability to complete a task that a newly licensed lawyer should be able to accomplish.

A majority of jurisdictions have adopted the **Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)**, which consists of the MBE, the MEE, and the MPT, and results in a portable score that can be transferred to other UBE jurisdictions.

Did you know?

There are 56 US jurisdictions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

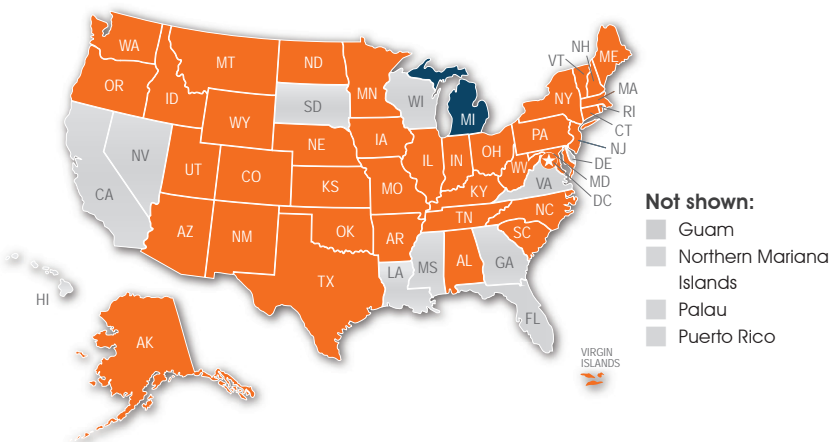
UBE SNAPSHOT

The Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) results in a portable score that can be used to apply for admission in other UBE jurisdictions.

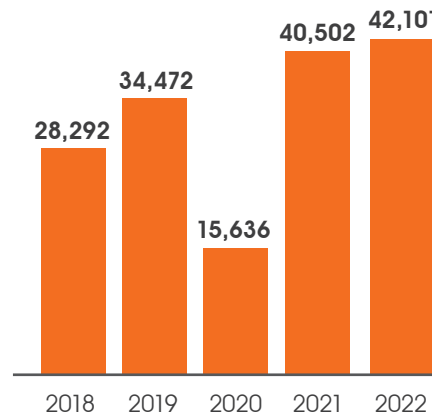


Number of jurisdictions that have adopted the UBE

40 jurisdictions administered the UBE in 2022. Michigan administered its first UBE in February 2023.



Number of UBE Scores Earned by Year, 2018–2022

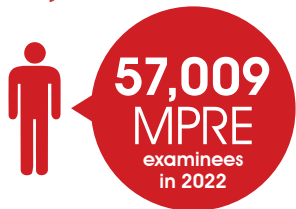


Total UBE Scores Earned and Transferred as of January 1, 2023



NCBE Exams (continued)

MPRE SNAPSHOT



MPRE®

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

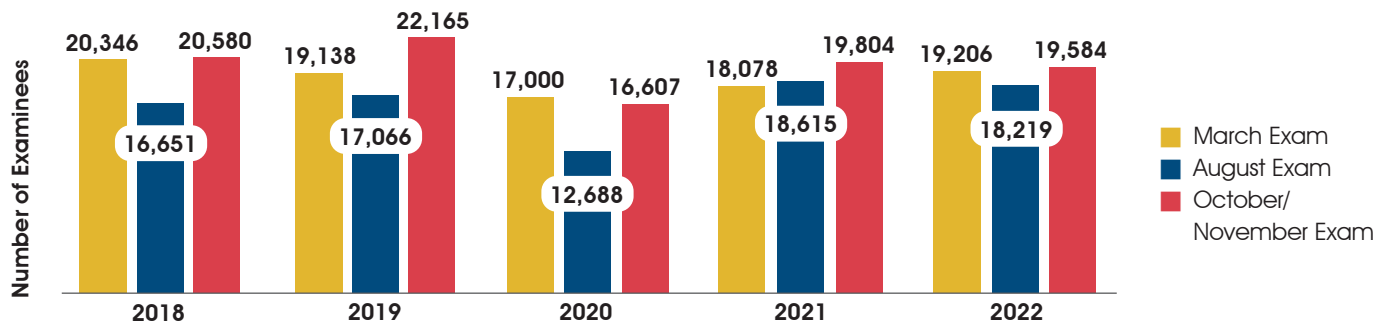
The **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** is administered by NCBE through its test contractor three times per year.

Most jurisdictions require the MPRE, a 60-question multiple-choice exam that measures candidates' knowledge and understanding of established standards related to the professional conduct of lawyers.

2022 MPRE examinees by administration:



Number of MPRE Examinees, 2018–2022



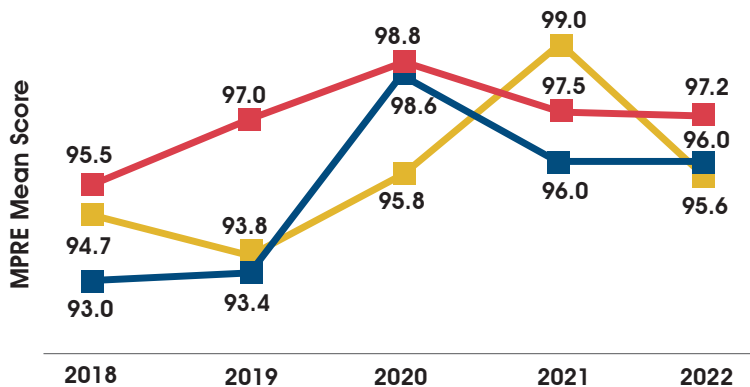
2022 MPRE mean score by administration:



MPRE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 50 to 150. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/3/23.

MPRE Mean Scores, 2018–2022

Legend: March Exam (Yellow), August Exam (Blue), October/November Exam (Red)



Did you know?

In March, over 1,000 candidates in 20 countries who were unable to travel to the US due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions had the opportunity to take the MPRE internationally.

Jurisdiction Services

Character and Fitness Investigations

15,046 
INVESTIGATIONS

NCBE conducted **15,046** character and fitness investigations on behalf of **28** jurisdictions in 2022.



JURISDICTIONS



JURISDICTIONS

23 jurisdictions used our online Character Report Application in 2022.



JURISDICTIONS

52 jurisdictions used our Online Verification process in 2022.



JURISDICTIONS

41 jurisdictions participated in our Cross-Reference service in 2022.

Did you know?

In addition to providing character and fitness investigation services, NCBE offers the following services for jurisdictions:

- an **online Character Report Application** (jurisdictions may use the online application even if they do not use NCBE's investigation services)
- an **Online Verification process** that allows jurisdictions, law schools, employers, and references to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries
- a **Cross-Reference service** that allows jurisdictions to determine whether applicants have previously submitted any type of application to another jurisdiction

Decisions about the character and fitness of applicants to practice law are made by jurisdiction courts, boards of bar admission, or character and fitness boards, not by NCBE.

Jurisdiction Services (continued)

Research Services

NCBE performs statistical analysis, equating, and scoring for each MBE and MPRE administration, and offers score scaling services to scale the written components of the bar exam to the MBE.

NCBE also prepares data forensics reports for cases in which examinees are suspected of cheating and conducts additional testing-related research in partnership with jurisdictions. These services are available to all jurisdictions at no charge.

Scoring, Scaling, and Statistical Analysis



160,478
exams

In 2022, NCBE scored, equated, scaled, and performed other statistical analyses on **160,478** exams for 55 jurisdictions.

42 jurisdictions used our **score scaling services** in 2022.

Research and Cheating Analysis



In 2022, NCBE conducted research (including analyses related to suspected cheating) for 18 jurisdictions.

Candidate Services

NCBE provides services to candidates throughout the bar admissions process. NCBE Accounts provide candidates with a one-stop secure web portal to submit character and fitness applications, request test accommodations and register for the MPRE, and request score services after taking the MPRE or the bar exam.

These score transfer and reporting services are available for examinees who wish to have their UBE, MBE, or MPRE scores transferred to other jurisdictions or who wish to receive a copy of their scores.



There were **155,544** active NCBE Accounts in 2022.



NCBE responded to **46,237** support inquiries in 2022.

Score Services in 2022

MPRE
Multistate Professional
Responsibility Examination

23,329

23,329 **MPRE scores** transferred to jurisdictions

7,017

7,017 **MPRE score transcripts** released to examinees

UBE
Uniform Bar Examination

9,570

9,570 **UBE score transcripts** transferred to jurisdictions

2,796

2,796 **UBE score transcripts** released to examinees

MBE
Multistate Bar Examination

633

633 **MBE scores** transferred to jurisdictions

383

383 **MBE scores** released to examinees

BarNow in 2022

NCBE provides authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions on BarNow, its mobile-friendly, interactive online study aids platform. Throughout 2022, NCBE offered a 50% discount on the Everything Value Pack to support candidates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit the NCBE Study Aids web page at ncbex.org/study-aids to learn more.

BarNow

5,142 bar exam study aids were sold in 2022.

2,014 MPRE study aids were sold in 2022.

Educational Events

NCBE sponsors a wide range of educational events for bar examiners, bar admission administrators, legal educators, judges, and justices. NCBE underwrites all or some of the cost of attendance at these events.

Featured Event



Annual Bar Admissions Conference

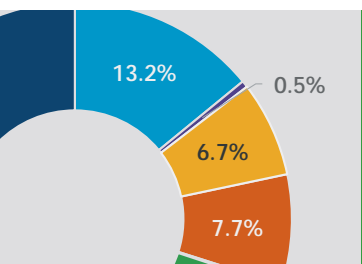
NCBE held its 2022 Annual Bar Admissions Conference in New Orleans on April 28–May 1. Fifty-three jurisdictions were represented by the 291 attendees, which included 107 first-time attendees and 32 justices from jurisdictions' highest courts. The keynote address was delivered by Hon. Carl E. Stewart of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Plenary sessions addressed diversity, equity, and inclusion work within bar admissions; the impact of COVID-19 on bar admissions; case law and exam validity; and Generation Z and first-generation lawyers; as well as updates on the next generation of the bar exam.

Webinars



Jurisdiction Update: Next Generation Bar Exam

A discussion of progress on the next generation of the bar exam with jurisdictions that do not participate in the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) was held virtually on April 4. The discussion was based on the shared NCBE and jurisdictional goal of a reliable exam that ensures fairness to examinees. Topics included test content and format, delivery methods, psychometrics and fairness, and local decisions and the exam.



Looks Good on Paper: What Is Good Data?

On May 18, two NCBE experts presented an interactive webinar that gave participants an opportunity to consider the kinds of evidence they might use when evaluating assertions regarding the bar exam. After discussion, the presenters offered perspective on the data NCBE uses to construct its tests and measure results according to best practices.



Content of the NextGen Bar Exam

On September 30, NCBE hosted two live webcasts for legal educators on the content of the NextGen bar exam. NCBE's Beth Donahue and Professor Jon Lee of University of Oklahoma College of Law—who is also a member of the NextGen Content Scope Committee—presented from test operations and academic perspectives, respectively, on the development and exam format of the NextGen bar exam. NCBE Chief Strategy and Operations Officer Marilyn J. Wellington joined the two presenters for a robust Q&A session with attendees.



Committee & Board Meetings

NCBE's Board of Trustees and policy committees meet regularly to evaluate current policies and practices and to recommend changes and improvements. Our drafting committees meet two to three times during the year to write and review exam questions.

4

Board of Trustees meetings

30

Policy Committee meetings

34

Drafting Committee meetings

Additional Events in 2022

UBE Jurisdictions Forum

On January 21, NCBE hosted a full-day virtual program for Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) jurisdictions that focused on the transition to the next generation of the bar exam.

Grading Workshops

After every administration of the bar exam, NCBE sponsors a hands-on Grading Workshop for jurisdiction graders. Individual workshop sessions, led by members of NCBE's MEE and MPT Drafting Committees, are held for each question. 695 attendees from 41 jurisdictions participated in the February Grading Workshop, and 702 attendees from 44 jurisdictions participated in the July Grading Workshop.

NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting

From August 11 to 14, 87 attendees from 36 jurisdictions gathered in Burlington, Vermont, for the 2022 NCBE and Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA) Annual Meeting. Plenary sessions provided updates on the next generation of the bar exam and addressed nonstandard testing accommodations, DEI training and awareness in the admissions process, and competency and parameters of fitness.

New Bar Admission Administrators Mini-Seminar

NCBE hosted a seminar on September 19–21 for new bar admission administrators at its Madison headquarters. The seminar's goal was to familiarize the new administrators with the resources and services NCBE offers.

CBAA Fall Meeting

The CBAA held its Fall Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in November, with 88 participants from 38 jurisdictions in attendance. Plenaries discussed effectively managing change and navigating financial issues in the character and fitness process, as well as providing an update on the content and design of the NextGen bar exam.

NextGen
Bar Exam of the Future

Committee Meetings

NCBE's Implementation Steering Committee, which oversees implementation of the next generation of the bar exam, met regularly throughout 2022. The Jurisdiction Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting in February and convened regularly to provide perspectives from bar admission administrators on the NextGen development process. Prototype item development and pilot testing planning meetings were also held throughout the year.

18

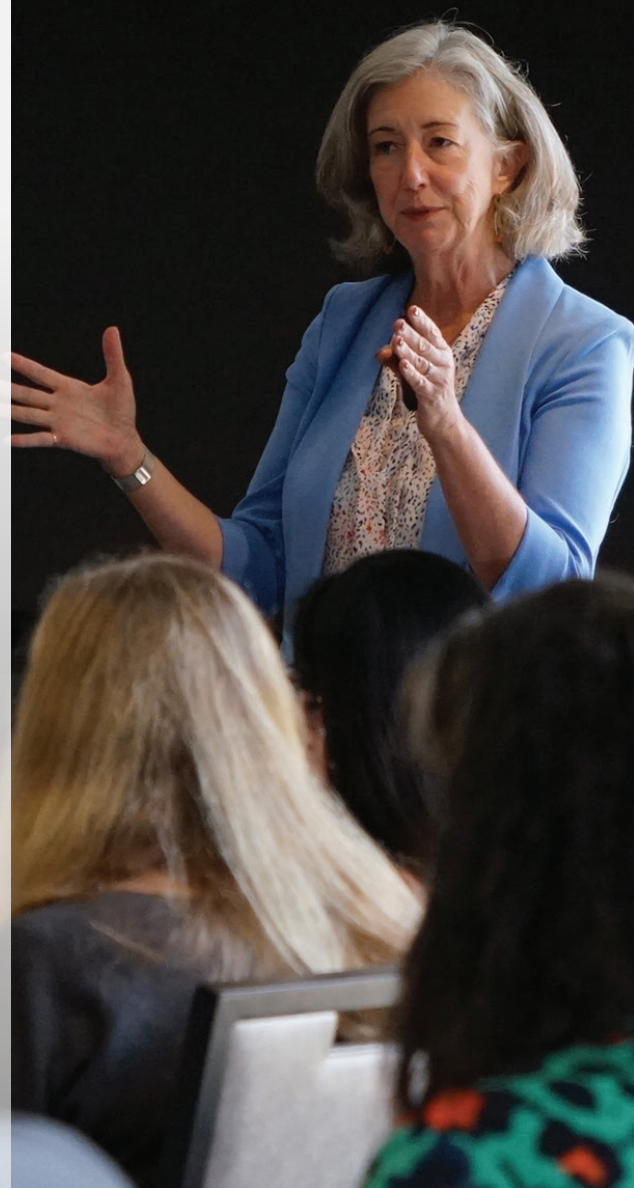
meetings on the next generation of the bar exam

Outreach

In addition to speaking at NCBE-sponsored educational events, NCBE staff made presentations throughout the year at conferences and meetings hosted by other organizations, sharing information and updates about the NextGen bar exam and contributing their expertise to conversations about a range of other important topics in bar admissions, including character and fitness evaluations and alternative paths to licensure.

- **Association of American Law Schools 2022 Annual Meeting** (virtual conference, January 5–9, 2022): Building the Next Generation of the Bar Exam
- **National Association for Law Placement 2022 Annual Education Conference** (New Orleans, April 5–8, 2022): Roadmap to the Next Generation Bar Exam
- **Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Building a Better Legal Profession: Pathways to Bar Licensure** (virtual conference, April 22, 2022): Assessment/Regulation of Alternatives
- **Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Conference** (San Antonio, May 24–26, 2022): The NextGen Bar Exam: Content and Design Update for Legal Educators
- **Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting** (Sandestin, FL, July 28–August 2, 2022): Character and Fitness: What Needs to Change?
- **American Bar Association 2022 Annual Meeting** (Chicago, August 3–9, 2022): The Next Generation of the Bar Exam
- **MINK (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas) Annual Conference** (Olathe, Kansas, August 25, 2022): The Next Generation of the Bar Exam
- **Minnesota Law Review Fall 2022 Symposium** (Minneapolis, October 7, 2022): keynote address; The Future of Lawyer Accreditation (panel)
- **International Conference of Legal Regulators Annual Conference** (Chicago, October 26–28, 2022): Starting on the Pathway to Success (panel)

In 2022, NCBE leadership met in person and virtually with approximately 20 jurisdictions, including courts, boards, administrators, and law school representatives, to discuss the transition to the NextGen bar exam.



Support for Law Schools



NCBE works closely with law schools to ensure the regular exchange of important information in support of our shared goal of preparing the next generation of lawyers to serve their communities.

2022 provided many opportunities for legal educators and NCBE staff to exchange ideas and expertise on a wide range of important topics. NCBE staff attending both regional and national legal education conferences shared research and updates and learned about the latest work being done in law schools across the country. And NCBE shared updates and information relevant to legal educators throughout the year through a quarterly newsletter for law school deans and other communications.

- In September, **over 700 members of the legal community attended a pair of webinars** designed for legal educators on the content of the NextGen bar exam.

Two reporting programs provide bar passage and MPRE data to law schools to help them meet reporting obligations to the ABA.

- **14 jurisdictions coordinated with NCBE in 2022** to disseminate essential pass/fail reports to law schools, which help law schools obtain the information they need for ABA bar passage reporting. As jurisdictions release these reports to NCBE, we in turn forward them to all US law schools.
- Law schools participating in NCBE's aggregated MPRE data reporting program receive anonymized reports following each administration of the MPRE showing how their students and graduates performed on the exam. This program helps schools meet their reporting obligations to the ABA under Standards 302 and 315. In 2022, **144 law schools participated in this reporting program**; four additional schools will join the program in 2023.

Research and Publications

Members of NCBE's Assessment and Research staff conduct original scholarly research that helps maintain the high quality of our exams and contributes to the field of educational measurement. Their regular contributions to the *Bar Examiner* provide accessible and timely insights on testing-related topics for a broad audience.



2022 Assessment & Research Staff Presentations

- **McKinley, D.**, session organizer. Ezzelle, C., Juster, F., Dore, K., Reiter, H., Winfield, A., Knezevich, L. & **Raymond, M.** "Holistic Assessment and Review: Can It Increase Diversity in the Professions?" Presented at the National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting.
- **McKinley, D.**, session discussant. "Validity and Instrument Development in Professions Education." Presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.
- Merritt, D., Cornett, L. & **McKinley, D.** "Assessment/Regulation of Alternatives to Bar Licensure." Presented at Building a Better Legal Profession: Pathways to Bar Licensure, Mitchell Hamline School of Law.
- **McKinley, D.**, session moderator. "Targeting Bias and Improving Equity: What Can We Learn from Education Programs?" Presented at the Association of American Medical Colleges' Health Workforce Research Conference.
- **Zhang, M.** & Gorney, K. "Computer-Based Testing in Pandemic Mode: What Response Times May Tell Us." Presented at the National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting.



2022 Assessment & Research Staff Bar Examiner Articles

The following articles are available on the *Bar Examiner* website at thebarexaminer.org.

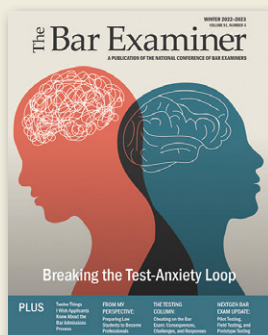
- **Reshetar, R.** "Joining NCBE as the New Director of Assessment and Research."
- **Reshetar, R.** "Why Are February Bar Exam Pass Rates Lower than July Pass Rates?"
- **Zhang, M. & Chen, K.** "New to Bar Admissions? The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing."
- **McKinley, D.** "The Bar Examination and Racial/Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession."
- **Kane, J.** "The MBE Mean and Bar Passage Predictions."



2022 Covington Award Recipients

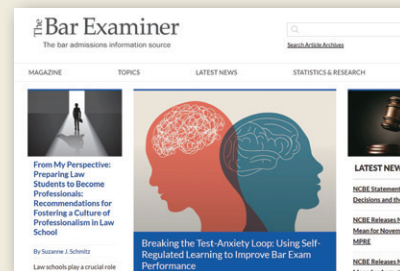
- **Özge Ersan Cinar**, University of Minnesota. "A Review of Measurement Challenges in Technology-Enhanced Item Types in Licensure Examinations."
- **Haeju Lee**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "A Comparison of Various DIF Detection Methods under Small Samples."

NCBE's annual Joe E. Covington Award for Research on Testing for Licensure is intended to provide support for graduate students in any discipline doing research germane to testing and measurement, particularly in a high-stakes licensure setting.

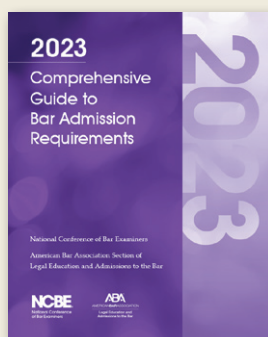


The Bar Examiner Magazine and Website

The *Bar Examiner* website at thebarexaminer.org provides a one-stop resource for news and in-depth articles relating to all aspects of the bar admissions process. The *Bar Examiner* is also published as a quarterly magazine mailed to courts, members of the legal academy, bar admission administrators, and members of bar examining boards and character committees.



46,000 visits to the Bar Examiner website



Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

The *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, published in collaboration with the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, provides information on bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions, including a directory of jurisdiction bar admission agencies.

The online Guide (reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide) is updated throughout the year; in addition, a print version is published annually and is available for purchase at the NCBE Study Aids Store (store.ncbex.org).



104,000 visits to the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements website

NCBE Staff and Volunteers

NCBE staff increased significantly in 2022 as we added expertise to support the development of the NextGen bar exam. The volunteer members of our Board of Trustees and our drafting and policy committees are practicing attorneys, judges, justices, law professors, and bar admissions staff from jurisdictions and law schools across the country.

- **130** NCBE staff members
- **12** Board of Trustees members from **10** jurisdictions
- **64** drafting committee members from **27** jurisdictions, including faculty members from **33** law schools
- **90** policy committee members from **43** jurisdictions



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