

US BAR EXAM DIGEST  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
LAWYERS AND  
LAW GRADUATES  
2016-2017

## PASS A U.S. STATE BAR EXAM BY RELYING ON THE LARGEST BAR PREPARATION AND LEGAL EDUCATION COMPANY IN THE WORLD

Innovative testing and learning technologies combined with years of experience training non-U.S. lawyers and law graduates make BARBRI International the best partner when you decide to enhance your career by becoming a U.S. attorney.

In today's increasingly globalised world, demand continues to grow for those who understand the workings and complexities of the law of more than one jurisdiction. Passing a U.S. state bar exam and becoming an American attorney adds valuable credentials to your C.V. or resumé and gives you the capability and expertise to work with international clients, deal with cross-border transactions and understand the differences between U.S. and international law.

Becoming a U.S. attorney requires commitment and involves hard work, effort and conviction; however, you can rely on BARBRI International to support and assist you every step of the way. BARBRI has helped over 1.2 million students succeed on U.S. bar exams, and we are here to help you.

This digest provides information about the bar exam and how you will prepare to pass the exam with BARBRI International. New York, California and Texas operate a relatively open policy in permitting foreign law graduates or lawyers to sit their bar examinations and they do not impose restrictions to admission on grounds of nationality or residence.

Graduates with a three- or four-year common law degree<sup>[1]</sup> may be immediately eligible to apply to sit the New York bar examination. Qualified lawyers who do not possess a common law degree can apply to take the California bar exam. If you are a practising lawyer with a common law degree, you may be eligible to sit the Texas bar exam.

While we strive to provide detailed information in this guide, we encourage candidates to attend an Open Day, or speak with a BARBRI International team member prior to enrolment so we can ensure that you understand how to establish your eligibility, and that you are able to study for and sit the bar examination.

For additional information please visit [www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI](http://www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI) or email [barbri@collaw.edu.au](mailto:barbri@collaw.edu.au)

[1] which must be of substantial and durational equivalence to an American law degree. Please contact us for advice on your eligibility.

## WHICH BAR EXAMINATION?

### CALIFORNIA



- 10% of our applicants
- Focus on IT, IP, Entertainment and Sports Law
- Lifestyle

### NEW YORK

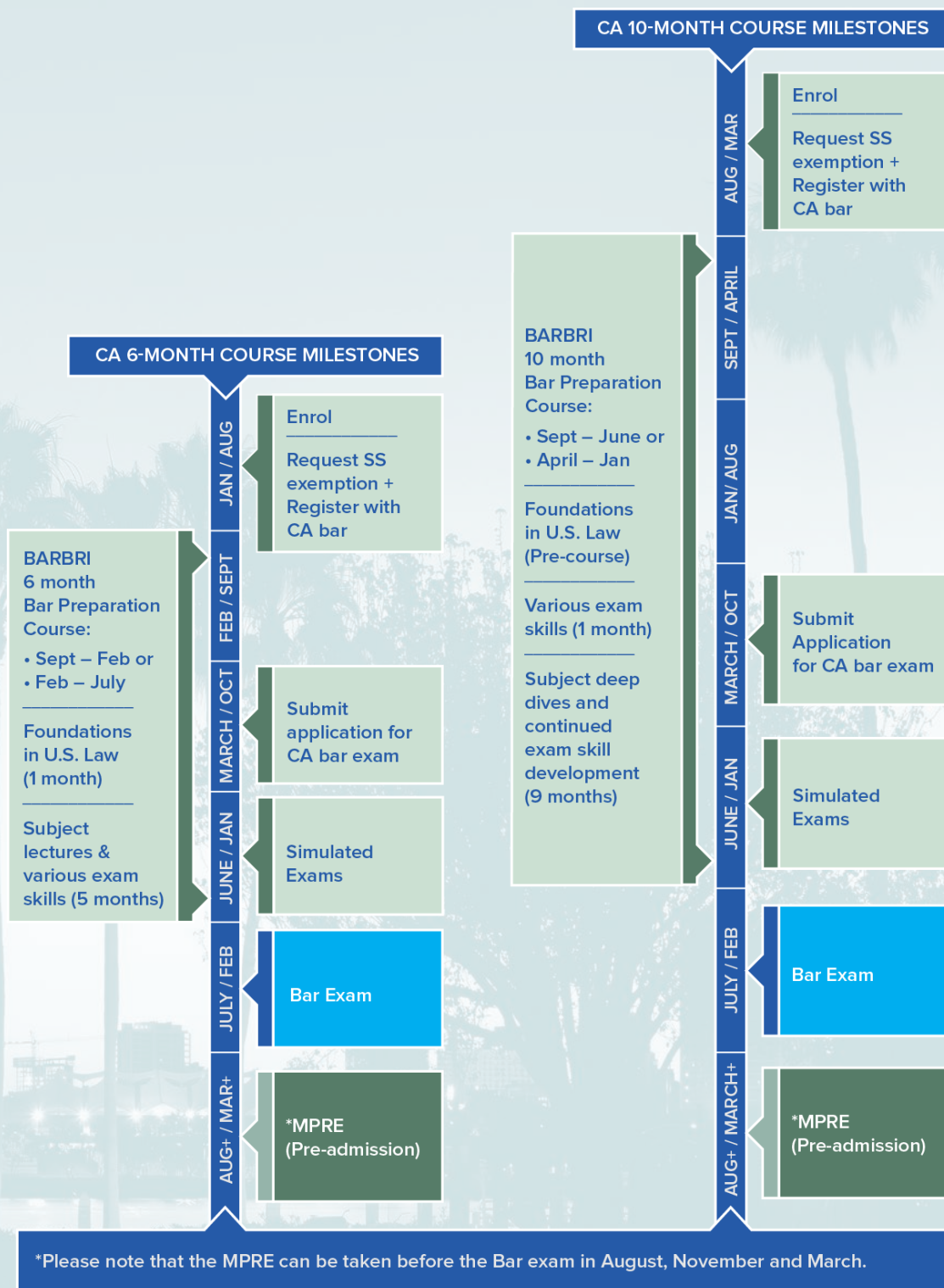


- 90% of our applicants
- Focus on Commercial and International law e.g: Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Financial Commodities, Oil & Gas, Real Estate Finance, Aviation, Capital Markets, Human Rights

### TEXAS



- Small number of our applicants
- Focus on Oil & Gas Law



## BAR EXAM: LAST TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF FEBRUARY AND JULY\*

The California bar exam is a three-day exam.

**Day 1:** Morning session is three essays given over three hours and can come from any test subject. Afternoon session is one three-hour California Performance Test.

**Day 2:** Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam.

**Day 3:** Morning session is three essays given over three hours and can come from any test subject. Afternoon session is one three-hour California Performance Test.

## SUBJECTS TESTED

### MBE Subjects

Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts.

### California Essay Subjects

CA Civil Procedure, Business Associations (Corporations, Agency and Partnership, and LLC), CA Community Property, CA Professional Responsibility, Remedies, Trusts, CA Wills and Succession, plus all MBE subjects and California distinctions.

### Performance Test

“Closed universe” practical exam using instructions, actual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

## MPRE

A scaled score of 86 on the MPRE is required for admission. Visit [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org) for information on MPRE dates, filing deadlines and application fees.

## FILING DEADLINES AND FEES

To be timely, applications must be filed in the month of October for the February exam and in the month of March for the July exam. Late filing is allowed until January 15 and June 15 respectively.

**Initial registration fee:** \$214

**Attorney exam fee:** \$983

**After initial deadline:** +\$50

**After first late fee period expires:** +\$250

## GRADING AND RESULTS

The MBE score is 35% of the total score and the essay questions and Performance Tests combine to account for 65% of the total score. A passing score of 1,440 on a 2,000 point scale is required, based on the combined scaled scores of the California Performance Test, the essay questions and the MBE.

Results from the February exam are released in mid-to-late May and from the July exam, the Friday before Thanksgiving (the fourth Thursday of November).

## RECIPROCITY

### Acceptance of MBE Score

California does not accept an MBE score from an exam taken in another jurisdiction.

### Admission on Motion

California does not provide for admission on motion. Examination is required of all applicants. Attorneys who have been licensed in another jurisdiction for four years may be eligible to sit for the attorney exam (written exam only).

## THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

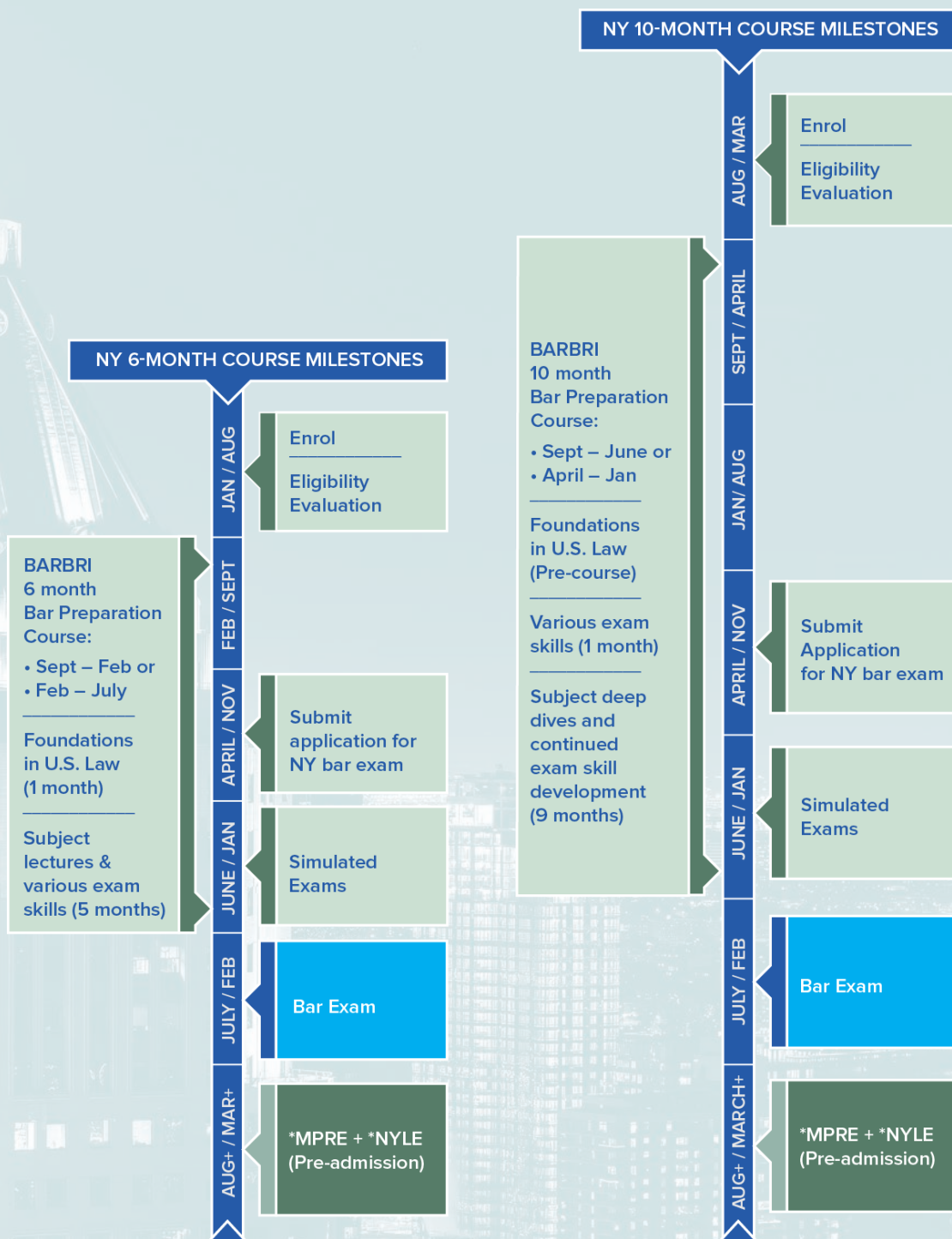
**Los Angeles Tel:** (001) (213) 765-1500

**San Francisco Tel:** (001) (415) 538-2300

**Web:** [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov)

\*At the time of print, the California Bar has reviewed the bar exam and it will reduce it from 3 days to 2 days beginning July 2017. Please refer to <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov> for the latest information.





\*Please note that the NYLE and MPRE can be taken before the Bar exam. The NYLE in August, October, December or May and the MPRE in August, November and March.

## BAR EXAM: LAST TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF FEBRUARY AND JULY

The New York bar exam is a two-day Uniform Bar Exam (UBE).

**Day 1:** Six 30-minute Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) questions and two 90-minute Multistate Performance Test (MPT) questions.

**Day 2:** Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam.

## SUBJECTS TESTED

**MBE Subjects:** Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts.

**MEE Essay Subjects:** Business Associations (Agency and Partnership, Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Contracts (including Article 2 and Revised Article 1 of the UCC), Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates (Decedents' Estates, Trusts and Future Interests) and Uniform Commercial Code (Secured Transactions).

**Multistate Performance Test:** "Closed universe" practical question using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by the bar examiners.

**MPRE:** Applicant must pass the MPRE within three years before or after passing the New York bar exam as measured from the date the applicant sat and passed the UBE. A minimum scaled score of 85 is required. Visit [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org) for information on MPRE dates, filing deadlines and application fees.

## FILING DEADLINES AND FEES

Apply online at [nybarexam.org](http://nybarexam.org) between 1-30th April for the July exam; Between 1-30th November for the February exam. No early or late applications accepted.

**Exam Fee:** \$750 for the UBE. No exam fee for the NYLC or NYLE; however, there is a \$27 NYLE software fee.

## GRADING AND RESULTS

The passing score for the UBE in New York is 266.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition, applicants must complete the New York Law Course (NYLC) and New York Law Exam (NYLE). The NYLC is an online course in New York-specific law with questions built into it. The NYLE will be a 50 item multiple choice test offered four times a year. Applicants can take the NYLC and NYLE up to one year before or three years after sitting the UBE subject to the filing deadline of the Court of Appeals, which requires an application for admission to the Bar be filed three years from the date when the applicant sat and passed day 2 of the UBE. Applicants must complete the NYLC before they can take the NYLE. The NYLE will be an open book test. An applicant who fails the NYLE will be required to retake both the NYLC and the NYLE.

## PRO BONO HOURS

Candidates seeking admission to the New York Bar must file documentation showing completion of 50 hours of qualifying pro bono work.

Qualifying work can be done in another state or country but must have been completed after 1st May 2012. You may begin any time after you commence your legal studies, as long as the pro bono work does not violate your law school's regulations or policies. Qualifying pro bono work must be completed before you submit your Application for Admission to the appropriate Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court.

Once you have received confirmation of passing the New York bar exam, your Application for Admission must be filed within 3 years. Visit: <http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml> for more information.

## BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

**Tel:** (001) (518) 453-5990

**Web:** [www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org)

TX 6-MONTH COURSE MILESTONES

BARBRI  
6 month  
Bar Preparation  
Course:

- Sept – Feb or
- Feb – July

Foundations  
in U.S. Law  
(1 month)

Subject  
lectures &  
various exam  
skills (5 months)

Enrol  
Eligibility  
Evaluation

Submit  
application for  
TX bar exam

Simulated  
Exams

Bar Exam

\*MPRE  
(Pre-admission)

\*Please note that the MPRE can be taken  
before the Bar exam in August,  
November and March.



## BAR EXAM: LAST TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF FEBRUARY AND JULY

The Texas bar exam is a 2-1/2 -day exam.

**Day 1:** One 90-minute Multistate Performance Test (MPT) question and a 90-minute Procedure and Evidence (P&E) exam consisting of 20 Criminal and 20 Civil P&E questions.

**Day 2:** Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam.

**Day 3:** Twelve essay questions.

## SUBJECTS TESTED

### Multistate Performance Test (Day 1)

“Closed universe” practical question using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

### Short Answer/Objective Subjects (Day 1)

Texas Civil Procedure & Evidence, Federal & Texas Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

### MBE Subjects (Day 2)

Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/ Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts.

### Texas Essay Subjects (Day 3)

Bankruptcy\*, Business Associations (Agency, Corporations, Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies, Professional Associations), Consumer Rights (including DTPA and Insurance), Family Law, Real Property (including Oil and Gas), Taxation (Income, Estate, Gift)\*, Trusts and Guardianships, Uniform Commercial Code, Wills and Estate Administration.

\*Cross-over topics

## MPRE

A scaled score of 85 on the MPRE is required for admission. Visit [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org) for information on MPRE dates, filing deadlines and application fees.

## FILING DEADLINES AND FEES

For the February exam, an application is timely filed if received between June 30 and August 30 of the year preceding exam. For the July exam, an application is timely filed if received between the preceding November 30 and January 30.

Foreign applicants must submit the following application fees payable to the Board of Law Examiners:

**Exam fees:** \$1,140

## GRADING AND RESULTS

MBE (weighted 40%), essay (weighted 40%), MPT (weighted 10%) and Procedure and Evidence exam (weighted 10%) are combined. A passing score requires a minimum of 675 scaled points out of 1,000. Applicants must pass the exam in its entirety. Results are generally released in early May for the February exam and early November for the July exam.

## RECIPROCITY

### Acceptance of MBE Score

Texas does not accept an MBE score from an exam taken in another jurisdiction.

### Admission without Examination

May be admitted without exam if actively engaged in the practice of law for at least five of seven years immediately preceding application, have a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school, have a valid active license and have been a member in good standing at all times.

## BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

**Tel:** (001) (512) 463-1621

**Web:** [www.ble.state.tx.us](http://www.ble.state.tx.us)

## THE MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAMINATION

In addition to the Bar Examination, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) must be passed before being certified for admission to practise as a New York, California or Texas Attorney-at-Law.

The MPRE is not considered a particularly difficult examination but BARBRI International recommends two weeks of concentrated study in order to ensure first time success. The MPRE preparation is provided free of charge by BARBRI International as part of your Bar Preparation programme.

### MPRE EXAM:

The MPRE is a 2-hour, 60 question multiple-choice examination on ethics and professional conduct covering the American Bar Association's (ABA) Code of Responsibility, the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the ABA Code of Judicial Conduct.

**Timing:** The MPRE is administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners in March, August and November each year.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR EXAMINERS

**Web:** [www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre](http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre)

### BARBRI INTERNATIONAL MPRE PROGRAMME

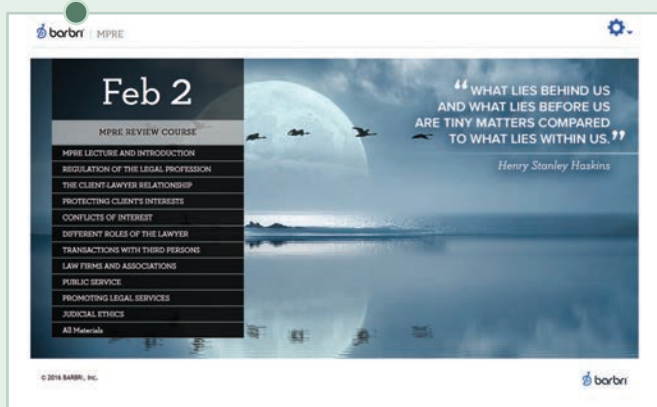
Our MPRE Review illustrates how the issues are framed on the exam and how you should apply the law. You will be well-prepared to answer questions in the mindset that the examiners expect from a U.S. licensed, practising attorney.

The programme provides:

- Comprehensive lectures which review the scope, substance and techniques needed to undertake the MPRE.
- Substantive outline of the MPRE law, including the various codes, and practice exams containing actual MPRE questions and model answers are also provided.

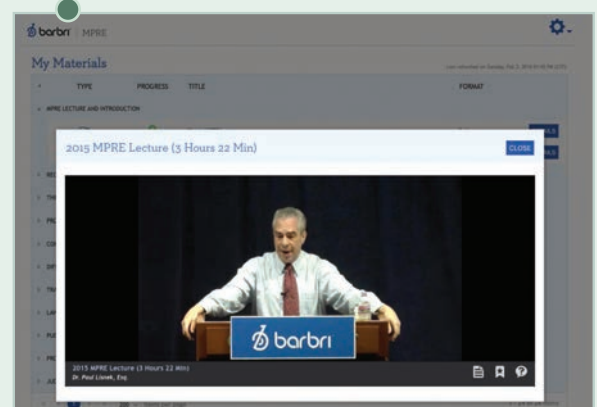
### FREE MPRE REVIEW

You receive access to a substantive outline of the MPRE law, including the various codes, and practice exams containing actual MPRE questions and model answers are provided.



### ONLINE LECTURES

You will also access comprehensive lectures which review the scope, substance and techniques needed to undertake the MPRE.



## PREPARING FOR THE BAR EXAM WITH BARBRI INTERNATIONAL

We understand and value the trust that is placed in us to help candidates through this critical point in their lives. BARBRI has maintained that trust for nearly 50 years helping over 1.2 million people become U.S. licensed attorneys. With BARBRI International, you can expect:

- 1:1 Attention and Guidance
- A tailored and flexible programme to meet learning needs of non-U.S. law graduates
- Exam-focused, pre-recorded lectures delivered by prominent U.S. law professors
- Expert facilitators and course director support
- Eligibility advice
- Specifically designed programme to accommodate candidates who may have other professional or academic commitments

For additional information please visit [www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI](http://www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI)  
or email [barbri@collaw.edu.au](mailto:barbri@collaw.edu.au)



## FOUNDATIONS IN U.S. LAW DESIGNED FOR NON-U.S. EDUCATED LAW GRADUATES

Preparation for the bar exam begins as soon as a candidate has enrolled on the BARBRI International programme with online access to Foundations in U.S. Law.

This unique programme of directed independent learning is designed to provide you with an introduction to the exam skills required for, as well as to the core 7 subjects tested on, the bar examination.

## THE BEST U.S. LAW PROFESSORS

Prior to the commencement of the Bar Preparation programme, each candidate is supplied with a **full set of printed materials** for their forthcoming studies.

BARBRI International has the **finest faculty in bar preparation**, consisting of renowned American law school professors who teach you the substantive law for each multistate and state subject while highlighting commonly-tested issues and how to handle them.

The lectures are wholly examination-driven. They are carefully crafted to convey what you need to know in each subject. These lectures are recorded live in the

U.S. and replayed by our facilitators at all classroom sites, and are available to each candidate online throughout the programme.

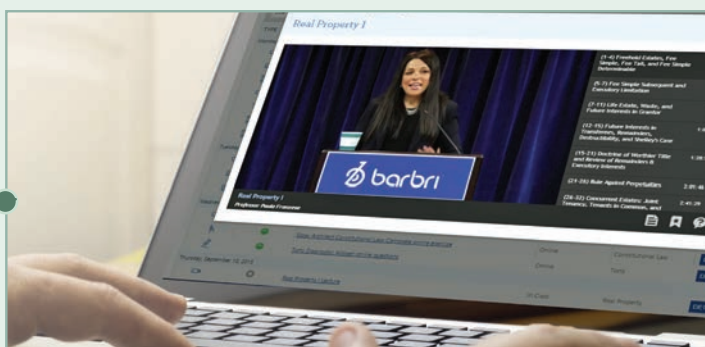
## PERSONAL STUDY PLAN

BARBRI International employs an integrated “Active Adaptive Legal Learning” system to expedite the learning process, increase retention and heighten comprehension. This system is presented to you via your online **BARBRI Personal Study Plan (PSP)**.

Your PSP continually monitors your progress and automatically recommends assignments aligned to your unique areas of need. Video lectures, outlines, practice questions and workshops build over time to create a highly effective bar preparation experience.

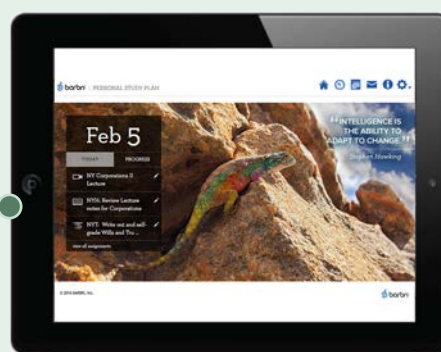
Frequent progress assessments help you study smarter. Your PSP analyses more than 1,000 points of data collected from your assignments, grades, practice exams and practice essays. This helps you hone in and improve on areas of law that need the most attention so you spend your study time where it will yield the best results.

View a demo of the PSP here: <https://youtu.be/m47DQOoiTOE>



## OUR FACULTY

You will learn from expert U.S. bar preparation lecturers who are deeply mindful of helping you pass the bar exam. These prominent scholars are familiar with every trend and nuance of the law tested on the bar exam. They'll point out where to concentrate your study efforts so you maximise your study time.



## PERSONAL STUDY PLAN

The easy-to-use online Personal Study Plan is your to-do list during the course. It continually monitors your progress and recommends assignments aligned to your unique areas of need so that you spend your study time where it will yield the best results.

## SIMULATED EXAMS

Two **simulated bar exams** are held throughout each bar preparation course.

The exam experience is replicated to test your endurance and your decision-making under time pressure. This realistic practice gives you the opportunity to fine-tune your bar exam technique and instils the confidence necessary for success in the actual bar exam.

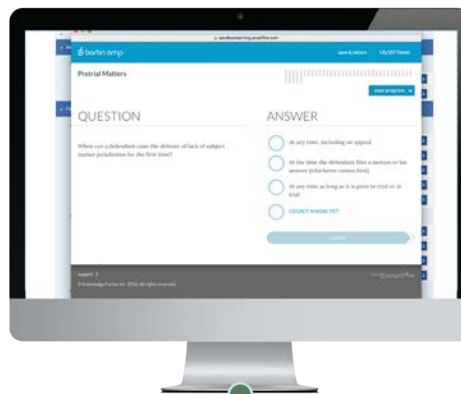
Additionally, the exam results provide you with additional insight into areas to improve upon so that you can continue to use your valuable time to study smarter.

## BARBRI AMP

An exclusive, highly effective tool to help you master the black letter law and maximise your MBE score. It is built right into your Personal Study Plan and presented when you need it based on assessments of your bar study progress.

BARBRI AMP employs interactive software techniques used by video game developers to keep you engaged, motivated and focused. It quickly assesses your level of knowledge and confidence in core areas of law, then focuses your attention where you need additional study.

BARBRI AMP monitors your aptitude in real time and instantly configures follow-up questions until you've demonstrated a solid grasp of a concept. No other legal study aid does this.



## BARBRI AMP

BARBRI AMP is a highly effective way to master the black letter law and maximise your MBE score.

## ESSAY ARCHITECT

An exclusive learning tool designed to provide you with immediate feedback, enhancing your ability to write the ideal bar exam essay answer.

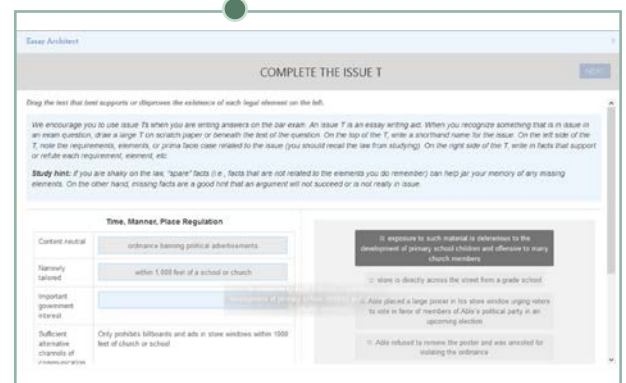
Essay Architect is assigned as an early learning tool and takes you through a series of steps so you learn to critically read bar exam questions, enhance the speed of your essay writing and construct strong, winning answers.

Using drag-and-drop features, you build your practice essay following the Issue Rule Analysis Conclusion (IRAC) format. Immediate feedback reinforces organisation and structure.

After working with Essay Architect, you may submit three set practice essays to BARBRI International for grading and personalised feedback on the style of your writing and the substantive content of your answer from a trained essay-writing expert.

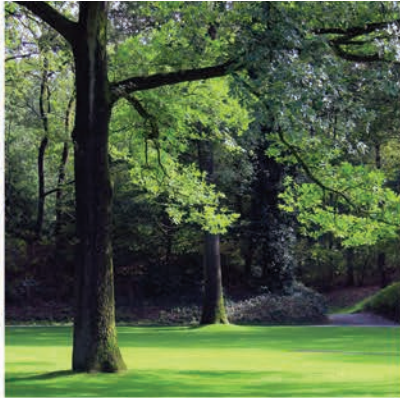
## ESSAY ARCHITECT

The online Essay Architect tool is used at the start of your studies so you can see what's required when writing an essay.





## 6 MONTH COURSE v 10 MONTH COURSE OPTION



### 6 MONTH BAR PREPARATION COURSE

- ✓ Designed for recent non-U.S. law graduates who would like to sit for a U.S. bar exam as quickly as possible
- ✓ Have the ability to study 30 hours per week over 6-month duration
- ✓ May study for the NY, CA or TX bar exam
- ✓ The 6-month programme runs from:
  - February through July with bar examination in July
  - OR
  - September through February with bar examination in February
- ✓ Candidates choosing a 6-month duration may select to attend a classroom lecture location if convenient or the distance learning Home Study programme

### 10 MONTH BAR PREPARATION COURSE

- ✓ Truly part-time option with greater flexibility designed for working legal professionals
- ✓ Have the ability to study no more than 10-15 hours per week
- ✓ May study for the NY or CA bar exam
- ✓ The 10-month programme runs from:
  - September through June with the bar examination in July
  - OR
  - April through January with the bar examination in February
- ✓ The 10-month duration is only offered as a distance learning Home Study programme

## CLASSROOM-BASED ATTENDANCE v HOME STUDY OPTION



### CLASSROOM LECTURE COURSE

- ✓ Classroom lectures administered by U.S. attorney-qualified BARBRI course directors and facilitators
- ✓ Pre-recorded lectures delivered by expert American law school professors are shown in the classroom and may also be accessed virtually through BARBRI's online Personal Study Plan
- ✓ Classroom locations offered in London, Dublin and Dubai
- ✓ Classes held on Friday evening and Saturday or Thursday evening and Friday in the Middle East
- ✓ Time and study expectations are 20-30 hours per week over 6-month duration
- ✓ Recommended for candidates desiring structure and regular face-to-face contact

### DISTANCE LEARNING HOME STUDY PROGRAMME

- ✓ Comprises same written and online materials as lecture course, accessed on demand following a detailed Personal Study Plan
- ✓ Watch pre-recorded lectures delivered by expert American law school professors and accessed online anywhere in the world through BARBRI's online Personal Study Plan
- ✓ Encouraged to attend physical venues for mock exams
- ✓ Course Directors available at mutually convenient time to provide study guidance; Fortnightly communication from BARBRI International and availability throughout the programme
- ✓ Truly part-time option with greater flexibility designed for working professionals. Choose from:
  - 6-month course duration requiring 20-30 hours of study per week
  - OR
  - 10-month course duration requiring no more than 10-15 hours of study per week
- ✓ Recommended for candidates who need more flexible study options or cannot attend the lecture course due to location or schedule conflicts

Both options are designed to allow candidates with full-time employment to work as normal and study at the same time. BARBRI International strongly recommends that candidates obtain a two to three week study sabbatical prior to sitting the bar examination in February or July, and that candidates fully utilise the revision weekends set aside throughout the course to ensure they keep on track with the study programme.

# Enquire today.

Visit **[www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI](http://www.collaw.edu.au/BARBRI)**

or email **[barbri@collaw.edu.au](mailto:barbri@collaw.edu.au)**

## OUR ALUMNI

Our alumni are working in the U.S. and around the world in companies and law firms some examples of which include:

- State Street Global Advisors
- Ernst & Young
- Deutsche Bank
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- KPMG
- Citigroup
- Goldman Sachs
- Deloitte
- Bank of New York Mellon
- First Derivatives plc
- Facebook
- Google
- Bonn & Schmitt Avocats
- Dechert
- Clifford Chance
- Slaughter & May
- Baker & McKenzie

Other alumni work successfully in diverse international legal positions for instance at the European Parliament, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Criminal Court.

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