

Preface and Acknowledgments

Scope

Preparing to pass the bar examination is a daunting task. From reviewing substantive law to memorizing rules to practicing each type of question, this book will guide you through each task involved in bar preparation and show you how to effectively structure your study. In addition, you will improve your skills by working through practice questions that include all three types of bar exam components—multiple choice questions, essay questions, and performance tests. The book's score sheets are designed to help you structure your answers to score well.

Content

After an introductory chapter on putting the pieces together for bar preparation, the book focuses on understanding how memory works. The bottom line of bar preparation is memorizing rules so that you can recall and use the rules applied to new hypotheticals. Chapter 2 not only describes how memory works, but it offers specific suggestions for how to encode information for later recall.

Chapter 3 focuses on establishing a game plan for bar preparation study, reviewing what a bar prep student should be doing the first few weeks of study, the next weeks, and the final weeks. Most bar prep students flounder their first few weeks because they are unsure of what exactly they should be doing. This book will guide you in how to structure your study. Chapters 4 through 6 focus on the three parts of the California Bar Exam: essay skills, performance test skills, and Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) skills. Each chapter offers guidance on improving skills in each area, showing you how to use practice questions and score sheets to the greatest advantage.

Chapter 7 focuses on building confidence. The bar exam is a high-stakes exam—often the first high-stakes exam a bar prep student has taken. As a result, anxiety runs high. This chapter will give you specific guidance on how to handle nerves and maintain your sanity during the bar preparation time period.

The following chapters then focus on each topic tested by California essays and the MBE. Each chapter includes starter mind maps for you to use to begin creating your own more detailed maps.

How to Use This Book

This book was designed to be used in a for-credit bar review course in law school. This book may also be used as a supplemental text during your bar preparation shortly before the bar examination. In a for-credit course, your professor will likely choose to cover only some of the chapters according to the goals for the course. Use the remaining chapters to study early before your commercial provider's course begins or to supplement any commercial provider's materials during your bar preparation.

The book does not provide complete, detailed outlines of the substantive law of each topic. It does provide an initial outline of each topic that can form your initial steps in preparing your own memorization materials. As explained in Chapter 3, reviewing prepared outlines is only the first step in preparing your study materials; you will continue to supplement your materials with rules that you have missed in your practice multiple choice and essay questions.

Authors

Professor Wanda M. Temm joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Law faculty in 1991 as a full-time legal writing faculty member. In the early 2000s, the UMKC School of Law faculty began studying why previous excellent bar results had taken a significant fall to between 67% and 72%—slightly below the state average. A faculty committee ultimately concluded that a variety of factors influenced bar passage. Professor Temm cofounded the UMKC Bar Prep Program and moved the program from a few practice essays to a program that provides study strategies and tactics for all aspects of bar preparation. UMKC's current bar passage rate for students actively participating in the program is above 95%, reaching 100% on several occasions.

Professor Susan Smith Bakhshian is the Director of Bar Programs and Clinical Professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where she has taught since 1997. She currently teaches Bar Exam Writing, Legal Writing, and Remedies, but she also has experience teaching Privacy Torts, Legal Drafting, California Civil Procedure, and Professional Responsibility. Professor Bakhshian cofounded Loyola's Fundamentals of Bar Exam Writing class with Professor Jean Boylan in 2005. That class is now part of several for-credit classes offered to help Loyola Law School students prepare for the California Bar Exam.

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top-notch program using innovative teaching methods. This book would not have been created without their support.

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WMT
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SSB
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