

# Preface and Acknowledgments

## Scope

Preparing to pass the bar examination is a daunting task. Intimidating and unnerving, this task is manageable by breaking your preparation into its component parts. 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 also 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 main parts of the bar exam in most states: essay skills, MBE skills, and performance test 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 sanity during the bar preparation time period.

The following chapters then focus on each topic tested by the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) and Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). Applicants in states that do not use the MEE will find that the skill-building suggestions and strategies work just as well in any topic area. States that do not use the MEE still test most of the same topics. I have used these materials for Missouri, a Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) state, and for Kansas, initially a state-specific essay state and now a UBE state, as well as for other states. Each chapter includes starter mind maps for you to use to create more detailed mind maps as you prepare.

### 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 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.

### NextGen Bar Examination

The advent of the NextGen Bar Examination is poised to revolutionize the bar examination. The exam is designed to reflect many changes law schools are making today to bring more focus on lawyering skills in addition to fundamental legal concepts. The exam's first administration is planned for July 2026. The NextGen bar exam will test a more focused set of clearly identified fundamental legal concepts and principles needed in today's practice of law. The National Conference of Bar Examiners will eliminate several topics currently tested as part of the essay portion of the UBE exam from both the UBE and from the NextGen exam including Conflict of Laws, Decedents' Estates, Family Law, Secured Transactions, Trusts and Future Interests. In this book, Chapters 17-20 would no longer be tested.

NextGen TOPICS
Agency and Partnership
Civil Procedure
Constitutional Law
Contracts (including UCC Article 2 Sales)
Corporations and Limited Liability Companies
Criminal Law and Procedure
Evidence
Real Property
Torts

In addition, subtopics within the remaining topics will no longer be tested. The NCBE has released the content outlines. The NCBE has indicated that it may begin moving to the narrower content scope outlines in the MBE sooner than the NextGen exam's inaugural administration. Whether and when that will happen is unknown. To be prepared, this book highlights those subtopics that the Final Content Scope Outlines indicate will no longer be tested. Students taking the

exam before July 2026 should study all topics until the NCBE announces it is moving to the narrower NextGen Scope Outlines.

### Author

Professor Wanda M. Temm joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City 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 67-72% — slightly below the state average. A faculty committee ultimately concluded that a variety of factors influenced bar passage. Professor Temm co-founded 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.

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