Contents

Preface xxiii Acknowledgments xxv

PART I - INTRODUCTION 1

- A. Why the Uniform Bar Exam Is Awesome 3
- B. UBE Acronym Lesson 4
 - 1. The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) 4
 - 2. The Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) 4
 - 3. The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) 4
 - 4. Quick Acronym Review 5
- C. UBE Score Portability 5
 - 1. Minimum Passing UBE Scores 5
 - 2. Maximum Age for Transferring a UBE Score 6
 - 3. Other Portability Considerations 6
- D. So, What Is and Isn't Uniform About the Uniform Bar Exam? 6
 - 1. The Uniform Parts of the UBE 6
 - a. Administration of the UBE 6
 - b. Grading the UBE 7
 - c. UBE Score Breakdown 7
 - 2. The Non-Uniform Parts of the UBE 8
 - a. Testing Accommodations 8
 - b. Character and Fitness Determinations 9
 - c. Other Considerations 9
- E. Let's Get Started! 10
- 2 Practice Makes Progress and Prepared 1
- A. Perfection Is No Longer Required 11
- B. Pacing Yourself (Because You Cannot Cram for the Bar Exam) 11

C. Where Are You Starting? 12	
D. The Importance of Breaks 13	
1. Why We Need Breaks 13	
2. When Are YOU at Your Best? 14	
3. Time to Brainstorm Some Break Ideas 14	
E. Why We Are Not Fans of "Practice Makes Perfect" 14	
1. Why the Concept of "Perfect" Is Actually "Imperfect" 15	
2. A "Perfect" Score on the Bar Exam Is Not a Perfect Essay	15
3. But I Want to Be a Perfect Lawyer 15	
4. Forget Perfect—Go for Prepared! 16	
a. A Clearly Defined Stretch Goal 16	

Memorization Versus Understanding 19

- A. Why Not Just Memorize? 19
- B. Okay, So There Is Some Memorization Involved 20
 - 1. The Power of Story and Emotion 20

b. Full Concentration and Effort 17

c. Immediate and Informative Feedback 17d. Repetition and Reflection and Refinement 18

- 2. Practice 20
- 3. Chunking 21
- C. Spacing It Out So You Don't Space Out 22
 - 1. Let's Begin with the Forgetting Curve 22
 - 2. The Spacing Effect 22
 - 3. The Testing Effect 23

4 Harnessing the Power of Yet 25

- A. The Benefit of Growing into a Growth Mindset 25
- B. So, Where Does Your Mindset Fall? 26
- C. Growth Mindset and the Bar Exam 26
 - 1. I Haven't Developed a Growth Mindset—Yet 26
 - 2. Embrace Failure 27

5 Making a Plan to Be Prepared 29

- A. When Should I Start Preparing? 29
- B. Bar Review Month One 30
- C. Bar Review Month Two 31
- D. The Final Days Before the Bar Exam 31
 - 1. Four Days Before the Bar Exam 32

xiii

- 2. Three Days Before the Bar Exam 32
- 3. Two Days Before the Bar Exam 32
- 4. One Day Before the Bar Exam 32
- 5. Day One of the Bar Exam 33
- 6. Day Two of the Bar Exam 33

PART II – MULTISTATE ESSAY EXAM 35



How to Tackle the MEE 37

- A. Introduction 37
- B. What Exactly Is the MEE? 37
- C. Subjects Tested on the MEE 38
- D. MEE Scoring and Weight 38
- E. Maximizing Your MEE Score 39
 - 1. Follow the Call of the Question 39
 - a. Single Issue 39
 - b. Open-Ended 39
 - 2. Sit on Your Hands 39
 - 3. Outline 39
 - 4. The Fact Pattern Is Given to You, So There Is No Need to Rewrite It 40
 - a. Example of What NOT to Write 40
 - b. Example of What TO Write 40
 - 5. Do Not Throw in the Entire Hornbook 40
 - 6. Do Not Invent Alternative Fact Patterns 41
 - 7. Discuss All the Problems That Are Raised, Even If You Do Not Know the Law 41
 - 8. How Much Does My Conclusion Matter? 41
 - 9. Be Clear, Concise, and to the Point 41
 - 10. The Four Kinds of MEE Answers You Do Not Want to Write 42
 - a. Repeating the Facts 42
 - b. Scratching the Surface 42
 - c. The Outline 42
 - d. Making the Graders Work Too Hard 42
 - e. So, How Do I Avoid Those Four Mistakes? 42
 - 11. The Million-Dollar Question: Why Am I Taking the Bar Exam? 42

F. The Steps for Tackling an MEE Question 42

- 1. Step One: Reading the Call of the Question and the Fact Pattern (3-4 Minutes) 43
- 2. Step Two: The Outline (4-5 Minutes) 43
 - a. Why Should I Outline When I Never Did Before? 43
 - b. Do You Know How Much Time I Have on This Exam? 43
 - c. All Issues Are Not Created Equal 44

e. Connectors 45	
f. Some Sample Analysis Formulas 46	
 G. Self-Studying and Grading (Wait, You Won't Be There with Me?) 46 1. Using Your Notes While Studying Is Not Cheating 46 a. Use Your Notes 46 b. Create Formulas (Templates) 46 c. Do as MANY Essays as Possible 46 2. Self-Grading Essays 46 a. Understanding the Grading Scale 46 b. "That Essay Got a 6?!": A Note on Why and How Essays Are Different Than Your Law School Exams 47 	
MEE Quick Guide 49	
A. Putting the Steps into Practice: Drafting a Contracts MEE Answer 51 B. What to Write and What Not to Write: Reviewing a Real Bar Exam Answer 57 C. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Your Turn to Review a Real Bar Exam Answer 50 D. Next Step: Practicing with a New Contracts MEE 65	62
Practice Makes Prepared: Next Steps in Maximizing Your MEE Score 77	
Your MEE Score 77	
Your MEE Score 77 A. Rinse and Repeat: Drafting a Civil Procedure MEE Answer 77	85

A Deeper Dive into Your MEE Practice: Maximizing Your MEE Score Across Multiple Subjects 99

3. Step Three: Writing the Answer (21-23 Minutes) 44

a. You Say IRAC, I Say CRAC 44

c. Legibility and Wording 45

b. Starting Off 44

- A. Time to Spread Your Wings 99
- B. Diving into Corporations and LLCs 99
 - 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: James's Answer 101
 - 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Maria's Answer 105
- C. Diving into a Civil Procedure/Constitutional Crossover MEE 110
 - 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: James's Answer 111
 - 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Peter's Answer 116

ח	Diving	into	Criminal	Procedure	121
υ.	DIVITIO	IIILO	CHIIIIIIII	riocedule	141

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Helen's Answer 122
- 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Maria's Answer 126

E. Diving into Real Property 132

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Candace's Answer 133
- 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Ava's Answer 139

F. Diving into Secured Transactions 147

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: David's Answer 148
- 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Candace's Answer 152

G. Diving into an Evidence/Criminal Law Crossover MEE 157

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Candace's Answer 158
- 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Ava's Answer 163

H. Diving into Agency 170

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: David's Answer 171
- 2. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Simone's Answer 177

Wrapping Up Your MEE Practice: Final Take-Aways from Real Bar Exam MEE Answers 185

A. It's Time to Tackle Some Solo MEE Answers 185

B. Focusing in on a Crossover Decedents' Estates/Conflict of Laws MEE 185

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Helen's Answer 186
- 2. Your Take-Aways 190

C. Diving into Family Law 191

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Ava's Answer 192
- 2. Your Take-Aways 198

D. Diving into Torts 198

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Brianna's Answer 199
- 2. Your Take-Aways 204

E. Diving into Constitutional Law 204

- 1. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Brianna's Answer 205
- 2. Your Take-Aways 210
- F. Where Do You Go from Here? 210

PART III – MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST 213

11

How to Tackle the MPT 215

- A. Introduction 215
- B. Components of the MBT: Task Memo, File, and Library 216

C. MPT Tasks: Objective, Persuasive, and Wild Cards 216 1. Objective MPT 216 2. Persuasive MPT 217 3. Wild Cards 217 a. Yes, on Occasion, the Bar Examiners Can Be Wild 217 b. Some Extra Help: The Format Document 217 D. General Strategies for Succeeding on the MPT 217 1. Stick to the Facts (the File Facts, That Is) 217 a. Fact Gathering: What Is Relevant and What Is Not 218 2. Using the Library 218 a. No Outside Legal Knowledge Permitted 218 b. The Skills and Nothing But the Skills 218 3. Watch the Clock 218 a. Yes, You Have Only 90 Minutes 218 b. Taking the Exam in 90 Minutes Takes Practice 219 E. MPT Scoring and Weight 219 F. The Steps for Writing an Outstanding MPT Answer 219 1. Step One: Scan the Instructions (< 1 Minute) 219 a. Everything Is Fiction 220 2. Step Two: Read the Task Memo (5 Minutes) 221 a. What Task Is Assigned? 221 b. What Issue Needs to Be Resolved? 221 c. Are There Additional Instructions? 222 3. Step Three: Create a Working Outline (1-2 Minutes) 4. Step Four: Skim the File for the Story (1-2 Minutes) 222 a. Painting a Clearer Picture 222 b. Yes, You Can, and Should, Skim at This Point 223 5. Step Five: Read the Library (15-20 Minutes) 223 a. These Are Made-Up Laws 223 b. Skim Statutes First 223 c. Read the Cases 223 d. Understand the Authority Provided 224 e. Go Back to the Statutes 224 f. How Do I Cite? 224 6. Step Six: Read the File (10-15 Minutes) 224 a. First, Review 224 b. Be a Relevant-Fact Detective 224 7. Step Seven: Complete One Final Re-Read of the Task Memo (1 Minute) 224 8. Step Eight: Set Up Your Document Structure (1 Minute) 225 a. Objective Memorandum 225 b. Persuasive Brief 225 c. Demand Letter 226 d. Opinion Letter 227 e. Other Tasks and Wild Cards? Look for the Format Document 227 9. Step Nine: Write (45 Minutes) 227

a. Legal Analysis and Reasoning 227

h	Communication	

- c. Organization 228
- d. Answering the Questions Asked 228

MPT Quick Guide 229

12 Tackling Objective MPTs 231

- A. Why Practice Is Key to the MPT 231
- B. Putting the Steps into Practice: Drafting an Objective MPT Answer 232

July 2019 MPT-1 233

- 1. Step One: Scan the Instructions 253
- 2. Step Two: Read the Task Memo 253
 - a. Assigned Task 253
 - b. Your Audience and Tone 253
 - c. Issues to Be Resolved 253
 - d. Additional Instructions and Notes 253
- 3. Step Three: Create a Working Outline 253
- 4. Step Four: Skim the File for the Story 254
- 5. Step Five: Read the Library 254
 - a. Start with a Skim of the Statutes/Rules 254
 - b. Next, Read the Cases and Add the Relevant Law to Your Working Outline 254
 - c. Return to the Statutes/Rules and Add the Relevant Law to Your Working Outline 258
 - d. Our Focus Right Now Is Just on Extracting the Rules 259
- 6. Step Six: Read the File 259
 - a. Pulling Out Facts 260
- 7. Step Seven: Complete One Final Re-Read of the Task Memo 264
- 8. Step Eight: Set Up Your Document Structure 264
- 9. Step Nine: Write 265
- C. What to Write and What Not to Write: Reviewing a Real Bar Exam Answer 267
- D. Stepping into the Graders' Shoes: Your Turn to Review a Real Bar Exam Answer 274
- E. Learning How to Aim Higher: Your Turn to Review and Compare Another Real Bar Exam Answer 282

Practice Makes Prepared: Next Steps in Maximizing Your Objective MPT Score 291

A. Rinse and Repeat: Practicing with a New Objective MPT 291

February 2020 MPT-1 293

- B. Checking in: How Did You Fare in the First 45? 311
 - 1. The Task Memo 311
 - 2. Skimming (Not Doing a Deep Dive into) the File 311
 - 3. Outlining 311

- 4. The Library 312
- 5. Checking in with Our Outline 314
 - a. What to Do When You Are Unsure of Where to Place the Rules . . . 314
 - b. Versus When You DO Know Where to Place the Rules 314
- 6. Back to the File (Now You Can Read It) 314
- 7. Yes, That's an Outline 318
- 8. Before You Write . . . 318
- 9. Now You Can Write 318
- 10. No, Really, You Need to Write Now! 318
- 11. Yes, We Are Annoying, But . . . 319
- C. What to Write and What Not to Write: Reviewing a Real Bar Exam Answer 319
 - 1. It's Your Turn! 319
 - 2. So, How'd You Do? 327
- D. Learning How to Aim Higher: Your Turn to Review and Compare Another Real Bar Exam Answer 327
- E. Fine-Tuning Your MPT Writing: Learning How Graders Split the Hairs Between MPT Scores 334

14 Tackling Persuasive MPTs 347

- A. Changing Gears: Moving from Objective to Persuasive MPTs 347
- B. What's So Different About Persuasive MPTs? 347
 - 1. Writing for a New Audience 347
 - 2. Start with Persuasive Headings 348
 - 3. Don't Save the Best for Last 348
- C. Putting the Steps into Practice: Drafting a Persuasive MPT Answer 348

July 2017 MPT-1 349

- 1. Step One: Scan the Instructions 369
- 2. Step Two: Read the Task Memo 369
- 3. Step Three: Create a Working Outline 369
- 4. Step Four: Skim the File for the Story 370
- 5. Step Five: Read the Library 371
 - a. Start with a Skim of the Statutes/Rules 371
 - b. Next, Read the Case and Add the Relevant Law to Your Working Outline 371
 - Return to the Statutes/Rules and Add the Relevant Law to Your Working Outline 377
- 6. Step Six: Read the File 382
 - a. Task Memo 382
 - b. Office Memorandum (a.k.a. Format Document) 384
 - c. Sentencing Order 386
 - d. Jean Robinson's Memorandum to File 389
 - e. Excerpts from Deposition of James Simmons 392
- 7. Step Seven: Complete One Final Re-Read of the Task Memo 396
- 8. Step Eight: Set Up Your Document Structure 396
- 9. Step Nine: Write 397

П	What to Write	and What Not to	Write: Reviewing	a Pool Bar Evan	Angwor	401
D.	what to write	and what Not to	o write: Reviewing	a Real Bar Exan	n Answer	40 I

- E. Stepping into the Grader's Shoes: Your Turn to Review a Real Bar Exam Answer 407
- F. Learning How to Aim Higher: Your Turn to Review and Compare Another Real Bar Exam Answer 412

Practice Makes Prepared: Next Steps in Maximizing Your Persuasive MPT Score 421

- A. Rinse and Repeat: Practicing with a New Persuasive MPT 421
 February 2020 MPT-2 423
- B. Checking in: How Did You Fare in the First 45? 443
 - 1. The Task Memo 443
 - 2. Skimming (Not Doing a Deep Dive into) the File 443
 - 3. Outlining 444
 - 4. The Library 444
 - 5. Checking in with Our Outline 445
 - 6. Back to the File (Now You Can Read It) 445
 - 7. Yes, That's an Outline 448
 - 8. Before You Write . . . 449
 - 9. Now You Can Write 449
 - 10. No, Really, You Need to Write Now! 449
 - 11. Yes, We Are Annoying, But . . . 449
- C. What to Write and What Not to Write: Reviewing a Real Bar Exam Answer 450
- D. Learning How to Aim Higher: Your Turn to Review and Compare Another Real Bar Exam Answer 456
- E. Fine-Tuning Your MPT Writing: Learning How Graders Split the Hairs Between MPT Scores 466

16 What About the Wild Cards? 473

- A. Pick a Card—Any Card 473
- B. But I've Never Drafted a [Fill-in-the-Blank] Before! 473
 - Learn to Expect the Unexpected 473
 - 2. What Does a Wild Card Look Like? 474
 - 3. But Really—How Do I Draft Something I've Never Written Before? 474
 - 4. Okay, So What Were You Saying About an Objective Memorandum in Hiding? 476
- C. Putting the Steps into Practice: Drafting a Wild Card MPT Answer 477
 July 2018 MPT-2 479
- D. Checking in: How Did You Fare in the First 45? 497
- E. Not So Different After All: Reviewing a Sample Wild Card MPT Answer 505
 - 1. Proper Format 508
 - 2. Covering All the Issues 508
 - 3. Article IV, Section 1 (Board of Directors) 508

XX Contents

- 4. Article IV, Section 5 (Vacancy in Board of Directors) 509
- 5. Article IV, Section 6(b) (Meetings of the Board—Quorum) 509
- 6. Article IV, Section 6(c) (Meetings of the Board-Voting) 510
- 7. Article V (Officers) 511
- 8. Article VII (Apportionment & Distribution of Revenues) 511
- 9. Article VIII (Amendment of the Articles) 512
- 10. Areas Where You Glowed Versus Areas Where You Need to Grow 512

F. Taking the Wild Out of Wild Card 512

PART IV – MULTISTATE BAR EXAM 515



How to Tackle the MBE 517

- A. Introduction 517
- B. What Exactly Is the MBE? 517
- C. Subjects Tested on the MBE 517
- D. MBE Weight and Scoring 518
- E. Preparing for the MBE 518
 - 1. Put in the Time 518
 - 2. Studying for Success on the MBE 518
 - a. Study Details, Not General Concepts 518
 - b. Pretesting 519
 - c. Practice (And What You Learn from It) Makes Prepared (To Be in the Greatest Position to Pass the Bar) 519
 - 3. The Different Types of MBE Practice 519
 - a. Practice for Stamina and Timing 519
 - b. Practice to Learn 520
 - 4. Best Practices in MBE Practice 520
 - a. Quality over Quantity 520
 - b. Do Not, Do Not, Do NOT Panic! 520
 - c. When Studying, "Track" 521
 - d. How to Track the MBE 521
 - e. Which Brings Us Back to Quality over Quantity 522

F. The Steps for Tackling an MBE Question 523

- 1. Step One: Read the Call of the Question FIRST 523
- 2. Step Two: Read the Fact Pattern 525
- 3. Step Three: Read the Answer Choices 525
- 4. Step Four: Select Your Answer 526
 - a. The Ways Answer Choices Can Be Wrong 526
 - b. Focus on the Best 526

6. Step Six: Look up the Correct Answer 527	
7. Step Seven: Determine WHY You Were Right or Wrong 527	
8. Step Eight: Get Even More Specific 527	
9. Step Nine: Create an Action Plan 528	
G. General Strategies for Succeeding on the MBE 528	
1. Don't Make Things More Complicated 528	
2. Pay Attention to What the Bar Examiners Are Giving You 528	
3. Take Note of "Special Facts" 528	
4. Use a Process of Elimination 529	
a. "If" and "Unless" 529	
b. "Because" and "Since" 529 5. Avoid Absolutes 529	
Avoid Absolutes	
MBE Quick Guide 531	
18 Stepping into the MBE: Civil Procedure Practice 533	
A. Taking Your First Steps into Civil Procedure MBE Questions 533	
B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 552	
C. Answers to Questions 6-10 556	
19 Stepping into the MBE: Constitutional Law Practice 559	
A. Taking Your First Steps into Constitutional Law MBE Questions 559	
B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 576	
C. Answers to Questions 6-10 580	
20 Stepping into the MBE: Contracts Practice 583	
A. Taking Your First Steps into Contracts MBE Questions 583	
B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 606	
C. Answers to Questions 6-10 610	
21 Stepping into the MBE: Criminal Law Practice 613	
A. Taking Your First Steps into Criminal Law MBE Questions 613	
B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 632	

C. Answers to Questions 6-10 636

5. Step Five: Assess Your Level of Comfort with Your Answer 527

c. Don't Make Assumptions 527d. Relationships Matter 527e. When in Doubt, Guess 527

22	Stepping into the MBE: Criminal Procedure Practice	639

- A. Taking Your First Steps into Criminal Procedure MBE Questions 639
- B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 657
- C. Answers to Questions 6-10 661

23 Stepping into the MBE: Evidence Practice 665

- A. Taking Your First Steps into Evidence MBE Questions 665
- B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 684
- C. Answers to Questions 6-10 687

24 Stepping into the MBE: Real Property Practice 689

- A. Taking Your First Steps into Property MBE Questions 689
- B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 707
- C. Answers to Questions 6-10 712

25 Stepping into the MBE: Torts Practice 715

- A. Taking Your First Steps into Torts MBE Questions 715
- B. Your Turn: Try a Small MBE Practice Set 733
- C. Answers to Questions 6-10 737

Appendices 739

All appendices except Appendix C are available online at www.AspenPublishing.com/Hale-UBE.

- **A Reference Sheets**
- **B** Charts
- C Mini Sheets: How-To Guide, MBE, MEE 741
- D Index of Real Bar Exam MEE Answer Scores
- E Index of Real Bar Exam MPT Answer Scores
- F Tracking Your MBE Answers
- G Sample MEE Fact and Law Outlining Grid