

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2025 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The graduates of New York law schools outperformed their counterparts from out-of-state ABA-approved law schools. The passing rate for the 401 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2025 for the first time was 77%, which was an increase of 5% from the February 2024 examination. The passing rate for the 288 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2025 for the first time was 73%, which was an increase of 4% from last year.

The passing rate for the 689 graduates of all ABA-approved law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2025 was 75%, an increase of 4% for this cohort from last year.

There were 164 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program, and 150 passed for a passing rate of 91%.

The Board examined a total of 4,090, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the February 2025 bar examination. Of those candidates, 1,583 passed for an overall passing rate of 39%, a decrease of 3% from the overall passing

rate on the February 2024 examination. The decrease in the overall passing rate is attributable to the performance of the foreign-educated candidates and repeat exam takers who sat for the examination. The passing rate for the 2,225 foreign-educated candidates who took the exam was 30%, a decrease of 5% from last year. The foreign-educated candidates accounted for 54% of all exam takers, which is the highest percentage for this cohort the Board has examined on an administration of the bar examination. The passing rate for the 2,549 repeat takers who took the February 2025 bar examination was 27%, a decrease of 6% from last year. Repeat takers accounted for 62% of all candidates who took the February 2025 examination.

Passing rates for various groups of candidates are presented on the chart below.

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2025
Pro Bono Scholars	91%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	75%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	77%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	73%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	43%
All First Time-Takers	57%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	48%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	30%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	39%
All Repeaters	27%

A list of the candidates passing the February 2025 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 9:00 AM ET on April 22, 2025. Each successful candidate, who also has completed the New York Law Course and taken and passed both the New York Law Exam and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as required by the Rules of the New York State Court of Appeals, will be certified by the Board to the Appellate Division for admission to the bar. Each candidate must then appear before the Committee on Character and Fitness to be examined as to their character and fitness before being admitted to the bar.

The Board congratulates the candidates who were successful on the February 2025 bar examination.