

Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 3600
P.O. Box 62535
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2535



Phone (717) 231-3350
Fax (717) 231-3351
www.pabarexam.org

February 12, 2021

Dear Pennsylvania Bar Exam Stakeholders:

I hope you, your families and your friends are well. I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners with an update on near-term and long-term plans for the Pennsylvania bar exam.

First, the July 2021 bar exam will be administered remotely. As you know, because of COVID-19 safety concerns and related restrictions, the Board decided to offer the second 2020 bar exam remotely in October and the first 2021 bar exam remotely at the end of this month. We have continued to evaluate the safety and feasibility of offering the bar exam in person. While the advent and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is encouraging, our research into the best guidance from health authorities suggests that it will not yet be safe to have large gatherings in July 2021. We have, therefore, recommended and the Supreme Court has approved the Board's offering the July 2021 bar exam remotely. Registration for that exam will open shortly, and we will continue to provide additional information on the Board's website, www.pabarexam.org.

Second, beginning with the July 2022 bar exam, Pennsylvania will administer the Uniform Bar Exam provided by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. A great many jurisdictions now offer the UBE, and the Board has for a number of years studied whether it would be appropriate for Pennsylvania to do so. After careful consideration, the Board has recommended and the Supreme Court has approved Pennsylvania's adoption of the UBE. There are a number of reasons for this decision, one of which is the increasing importance to applicants of having "portable" scores. We know there will be many questions related to this change. As we make decisions about the details of implementation, we will provide additional information on the Board's website.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Fine", is written over the typed name.

David R. Fine
Chair



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 12, 2021

Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners Announces that July 2021 Bar Exam Will Be Remote and that Pennsylvania Will Adopt the UBE in 2022

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners has announced plans for the July 2021 bar exam and for a change in the bar exam effective with the July 2022 bar exam.

First, due to the ongoing global pandemic, the Board recommended and the Supreme Court has approved administering the July 2021 bar exam remotely. The Board most recently held a remote exam in October 2020 and will do so again February 22-24, 2021. Registration for the July 2021 exam will open on February 15, 2021. More [information about the July 2021 exam](#) is available on the Board's website.

In addition, the Board has recommended and the Supreme Court has approved Pennsylvania's adoption effective with the July 2022 exam of the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) provided by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE).

"Because the UBE is uniformly administered, applicants earn a portable score they can transfer from one UBE jurisdiction to another," said Board Chair David R. Fine. "That portability is helpful to applicants who can then more readily seek employment in more than one jurisdiction."

Under the supervision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Board of Law Examiners recommends individuals who have demonstrated the competency and requisite character necessary to become a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

Through its work, the Board helps to preserve the integrity of the legal system, and protects all individuals seeking legal representation from unethical or incompetent lawyers. The Board emphasizes the importance of professional responsibility and character in the legal profession, and evaluates the likelihood of an aspiring lawyer's ability to uphold, and commit to, the standards of the profession.

More information about the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners and the Pennsylvania bar exam is available on the [Board's website](#).

###

Media contact: [Stacey Witalec](#), 717-877-2997