

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO BAR EXAM**

**NOTICE:** The following information is provided as a summary of commonly asked questions regarding the Colorado Bar Exam. It is not intended to fully address all application/admission policies and requirements. Please refer to both the “Instructions for Filing an Application to Take the Colorado Bar Exam,” as well as, Rule 201, C.R.C.P. for complete details, both of which are available from this web site.

### **Our Mailing Address**

Colorado Supreme Court  
Board of Law Examiners  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1820  
Denver Colorado 80202

Telephone Number: 303-866-6626

### **Exam Dates and Location**

The bar exam is held twice yearly, on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July.

The examination consists of the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) and a written essay and performance test.

All Class B (exam) applicants are required to take **both** the MBE and Essay/PT portions of the examination. The Essay/PT exam is administered on the last Tuesday of February and July followed by the MBE on the last Wednesday of the month.

The exam is administered in the Denver Metro Area at one location only.

### **Filing Deadlines**

Applications, including Update Applications, must be filed using the most recent version of the Boards forms.

Application forms and applicable fees must be filed on or \*postmarked no later than December 1 for the February exam and May 1 for the July exam. Applications filed after these dates will be assessed applicable late penalty fees.

### **Updating a Previous Application for the exam**

Applicants who have previously filed an application to sit for the examination may be eligible to file update application forms. Applications filed more than 2 years ago may not be renewed and new application forms must be filed.

Those who withdrew or were absent from the exam and those who are repeating the exam may file update application forms. Applications may be updated and fees not previously refunded will be applied to the current fee for a period of 2 years from the date the original or last update application was filed. Any difference between the previous fee and the current fee shall be borne by the applicant in addition to a \$250 update fee. If an update application is filed after having previously withdrawn from the exam, a \$250 update fee will be assessed in addition to any of the above referenced fee differences or refunds. The total amount due must be submitted at the time the application is filed. All update materials must be filed by December 1 for the February exam or May 1 for the July exam. Update materials filed after the official deadline are subject to the late filing penalties referenced above.

### **Withdrawing an Application**

An application for the exam may be filed and subsequently withdrawn by submitting written notification to the Board. Applicants who are absent from the exam, but who fail to withdraw by written notification, at least one business day prior to the exam will be assessed the full application fee. See “Instructions for Filing an Application to Take the Colorado Bar Exam” for policies regarding partial fee refunds and updating a previously filed application.

### **Application Filing fees**

Exam (Class B):	
Non Attorney	\$475.00*
Attorney	\$500.00*

**\*Computer test takers add \$100**

See Exam Filing Deadlines and Late Filing Penalty Fees.

See Application Instructions for information regarding policies on method of payment, returned checks, and refunds.

### **Late Penalty Filing Fees**

Late applications will be accepted through -

    December 31 for the February exam and  
    May 31 for the July exam

Late applications must be accompanied by all applicable fees and filed or

\*Postmarked no later than the last applicable late filing deadline.

**Late Fee Penalty Fee: \$200**

\*Postage meter tapes are not recognized when determining whether a filing deadline has been

met. Late applications postmarked by applicable deadlines but received more than 7 days following postmark date will be rejected as not timely filed.

Applications filed without the appropriate fees or not substantially completed will not be deemed timely filed and will not be accepted for processing.

### **About the Colorado Bar Exam**

The Colorado Bar Examination consists of three parts: The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). In order to pass the Colorado Bar Exam, an examinee must score 276 scale points (of a possible 400). The formula for determining the total bar exam score is:

$$\text{MBE Scale Score} + \text{MEE Scale Score} + \text{MPT Scale Score} = \text{Bar Exam Score}$$

### **Multistate Essay Exam (Day 1)**

The MEE portion of the Colorado Bar Examination consists of eight questions. Examinees are required to answer four questions in the morning session and four in the afternoon. A total of four hours is allotted to answer eight questions (an average of thirty minutes per question). For more information about the MEE, including subjects that may be tested and areas covered within those subjects, study aids and information guides go to: <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mee/>

**Note, however, that Conflict of Laws will not be tested in July 2009 or February 2010.**

### **Multistate Performance Test (Day 1)**

The MPT consists of two, ninety-minute questions. One MPT question is given in the morning and one in the afternoon. The MPT questions are designed to test skills commonly used by lawyers practicing law competently. These skills generally include, but are not limited to, the following: Legal Analysis, Fact Analysis, Awareness of Professional Responsibility, Problem Solving, Research Skills, and Writing Skills. For more information about the MPT, study aids and information guides, go to: <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpt>

### **Multistate Bar Exam (Day 2)**

The MBE is a 6-hour multiple-choice test consisting of 200 questions. It is divided into a 3-hour morning session and a 3-hour afternoon session. For more information about the MBE, study aids and information guides, go to: <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mbe>

1. Colorado **DOES NOT ACCEPT MBE SCORES** from other jurisdictions or from previous examinations for purposes of waiving the MBE portion of the exam.

## **Procedures for Scoring the Bar Examination**

1. **Scoring-MBE:** Raw MBE scores (the number of questions correctly answered) are converted to scale scores by the American College of Testing by use of a statistical formula designed to make scores comparable from exam to exam.
2. **Scoring-MEE:** Essay questions may vary in the number of points each is worth. Questions, however, are subjected to a formula that equates them. Therefore, no one essay question carries more weight, or is more important, than another.
3. **Scoring-MPT:** The MPT answers will be scored as are the MEE questions. Scores will be formulated so that the MPT score equals approximately 40% of the total combined MEE/MPT score (one MPT question is worth the same as about three MEE questions).
4. After MEE and MPT answers have been graded and equated, the individual point totals are added to arrive at a raw total. Next, the raw score total is converted to a corresponding score on a two hundred point scoring range and scaled to the MBE. That score is then added to the MBE scale score to arrive at a total bar exam scale score.
5. After the total bar exam scale score has been calculated, MEE and MPT answers are regraded for persons whose scores fall within a specified range of the pass line. This is to help assure that persons close to the pass line have been fairly and correctly assessed. After this regrade, the scores from the two gradings are averaged and rounded up to the next whole number. MEE and MPT scores are then added, formulated and totaled with the scale MBE score in the manner previously described. This becomes the final bar exam scale score for those persons falling within this "reassessment" category.
6. **Review for Failing Examinees:** If the bar examination is failed by three or fewer points (a score of 273, 274 or 275 total points is achieved), the examinee may request that some of his/her answers be regraded. Also, persons scoring 276 or above on the first grading, but who did not achieve a passing score after regrade may request that some of his/her answers be regraded. This review is initiated by the examinee filing a petition with this office in accordance with deadlines and procedures, which will be announced with the exam results.

Information, study aids and information guides for the MBE, MEE and MPT are available from the National Conference of Bar Examiners website: [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)