University of La Verne

College of Law

Survey of First-Time Bar Exam Takers

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about student opinions and activities regarding bar support courses and programs offered by the College of Law, independent preparation efforts, bar review courses, and the experience of taking the bar. The information you provide will help us improve the way bar support is provided to future students. This is a confidential survey; individual responses to the survey will be viewed and analyzed only by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, and the results will be reported in aggregate summary form. We ask you to provide your name so that we can more fully analyze the information by integrating data from our official university records. The survey takes about 20-30 minutes to complete.

There will be five drawings of $100 cash gifts each for participants. Winners will be contacted by email for postal addresses. Please complete the survey no later than **November 17, before the bar exam results are out.**

If you have any questions about this survey please address your inquiries to Dr. Aghop Der-Karabetian, Associate Vice President for Assessment at: [ader-karabetian@laverne.edu](mailto:ader-karabetian@laverne.edu), or Professor John Linarelli at: [jlinarelli@laverne.edu](mailto:jlinarelli@laverne.edu).

Thank you for your time.

**Background Information**

**Name:**

1. Age (write in)

2. Sex: M F

3. Ethnic/racial background

• African American

• Asian/Pacific Islander

• Latino/a

• Native American

• White

• Bi/multi-racial

• Other

4. Are you currently married or in a committed relationship? Yes No

5. Are you the primary caregiver to any children under the age of 18? Yes No

6. If yes, how much childcare assistance did you get when studying for the bar?

a. None

b. Very little

c. Somewhat

d. Great deal

7. How many hours approximately did you work during the weeks preceding the July 2011 bar exam?

a. None

b. Less than 10

c. 11-20 hours

d. 21-30 hours

e. 31-40 hours

f. More than 40 hours

8. Are you the first person in your family to receive a graduate or professional degree? Yes No

9. Are you the first person in your family to receive an undergraduate degree? Yes No

10. Was English the primary language spoken in your home when you were growing up?

Yes No

If not, what language? (Write in)

11. Your Undergraduate Major (write in)

12. Undergraduate GPA (write in)

13. Class rank at graduation from the College of Law (write in)

14. GPA at graduation from the College of Law (write in)

15. LSAT score (write in)

16. After you finished taking the bar exam how likely did you think it was that you would pass?

a. Very Unlikely

b. Somewhat Unlikely

c. Couldn’t tell one way or another

d. Somewhat likely

e. Very Likely

**College of Law Academic and Bar Support Courses and Programs**

1. Did you participate in the Strategic Legal Methods (SLM) course? Yes No

2. If Yes, in general how helpful was the SLM course in providing you skills that benefited you when taking the bar exam?

Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

3. What did you find most helpful in the SLM course? (write in)

4. What would you like to see done differently in the SLM Course to provide skills that would benefit you when taking the bar exam? (write in)

5. In general how helpful was the Legal Analysis and Writing (LAW) course in providing you skills that benefited you when taking the bar exam?

Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

6. What did you find most helpful in the LAW course? (write in)

7. What would you like to see done differently in the LAW Course to provide skills that would benefit you when taking the bar exam? (write in)

8. Did you participate in the course, Legal Strategies: Approaching the Bar (LSAB)?

Yes No

9. If yes, how helpful did you find the following aspects of the LSAB course?

a. How to write: Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

b. How to take exams: Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

c. Time management: Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

d. Performance exams: Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

e. Critical thinking: Not at all Minimally Somewhat Quite Very

10. What would you like to see done differently in the LSAB Course to better prepare you for the bar exam? (write in)

11. How many sessions of Supplemental Tutoring did you participate in? (write in)

12. What would you like to see done differently in Supplemental Tutoring sessions? (write in)

13. What kind of support would you like to see the school provide that was not provided? (Write in)

14. How well did the academic curriculum at the College of Law benefit you in the following subject areas in taking the bar?

Not Well Very Well

a. Business Associations 1 2 3 4 5

b. Civil Procedures 1 2 3 4 5

c. Community Property 1 2 3 4 5

d. Constitutional Law 1 2 3 4 5

e. Contracts 1 2 3 4 5

f. Criminal Law and Procedure 1 2 3 4 5

g. Evidence 1 2 3 4 5

h. Professional Responsibility 1 2 3 4 5

i. Real Property 1 2 3 4 5

j. Remedies 1 2 3 4 5

k. Torts 1 2 3 4 5

l. Trusts 1 2 3 4 5

m. Wills and Succession 1 2 3 4 5

**Bar Review Course and Preparation Work**

1. Which bar review course did you sign up for as your primary course?

a. Barbri

b. Themis

c. Kaplan/PMBR

d. BarPassers

e. Flemings

f. Other, please specify (write in)

c. None

2. Did you attend all the lectures? Yes No

If No, why did you stop? (Write in)

3. If you stopped attending the lectures, did you watch the lectures from home or on your own somewhere other than home?

a. Yes, all of them

b. Most of them

c. Some of them

d. None of them

4. Did you try to follow your bar review course’s syllabus? Yes No

If No, why not? (write in)

5. If you tried to follow your bar course’s syllabus, what percentage of their assignments were you able to complete?

a. None

b.1-20%

c. 21-40%

d. 41-60%

e. 61-80%

f. 81-100%

6. Did you attend a Kaplan/PMDR MBE Workshop?

a. Yes, the 6-day workshop

b. Yes, the 3-day workshop

c. Yes, both the 6-day and 3-day workshops?

d. No

7. If yes, would you recommend it to someone else?

a. No

b. Somewhat

c. Strongly

8. Did you primarily practice MBE questions on the computer or on paper?

a. Computer

b. Paper

c. Both to some extent

9. Did you use any study programs on your phone/iPod or other portable devices? Yes No

If so, please specify (write in)

10. Did you use any other commercial bar review materials or study aids? Yes No

If yes, please specify (write in)

11. Did you have a private tutor? Yes No

If Yes, what did you find most helpful (write in)

12. Approximately how many hours per day did you study during the last few weeks prior to the bar exam? (write in)

13. Approximately what Percentage of the time did you do the following while preparing for the bar exam? (Should add up to 100%)

a. Read \_\_\_\_\_\_ %

b. Practiced performance test \_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

c. Practiced multiple choice tests \_\_\_\_\_\_%

d. Practiced essays \_\_\_\_\_\_ %

14. How much time did you spend in a study group?

a. None

b. About ¼ time

c. About ½ time

d. About 2/3 time

e. Almost all the time

15. Normally on what type of test do you perform better?

a. Essay

b. Multiple-choice

c. Both

d. Mixed essay and multiple choice

16. Normally how would you describe your writing during an essay exam?

a. Very legible all the way through

b. Some parts tend to be somewhat difficult to read

c. Tends to be difficult to read overall

17. What information do you wish you received from the school that you had not heard?

(write in)

18. What can the College of Law do for you over the summer as you prepare to take the bar exam? (Write in)

19. What kind of feedback during regular coursework in law school would have helped you better prepare for the bar exam?

(Write in)

**Taking the Bar Exam**

1. Would you say you took the bar exam in July 2011 for “practice” to see how it looks and what it feels like? Yes No

2. How confident did you feel going into the bar exam?

a. Not confident at all

b. Somewhat confident

c. Quite confident

d. Very confident

3. Did you have a significant or personal emergency near the bar exam date? Yes No

4. Did you have a good night’s sleep (7-8 hours) before the exam days? Yes No

5. Did you commute to the exam location on any of the bar exam days? Yes No

If Yes, which days? (write in)

6. Because of nervousness did you feel ill (Stomach ache, headache, dizziness) just before or during the Bar Exam?

a. None at all

b. Somewhat

c. Quite a bit

d. Very much

7. Because of nervousness did you block or blank out on some parts of the bar exam?

a. None at all

b. Once or twice

c. Frequently

d. Very frequently

8. In hindsight, what do you think you should have done differently during the bar exam days?

(Write in)

9. Overall, what factors do you think affected your performance positively on the bar exam regardless of the outcome you might receive? (Write in)

10. Overall, what factors do you think affected your performance negatively on the bar exam regardless of the outcome you might receive? (Write in)