



ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA

Congratulations on passing the California Bar Exam! You may check whether you have satisfied the requirements for admission to practice law in California on your Admission Status screen within the Applicant Portal. If all admissions requirements have been satisfied, the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California will have obtained an order from the Supreme Court of California permitting you to take the attorney's oath of office after November 13, 2023. While the State Bar of California will no longer host Admission Ceremonies remotely or in person, you may take the oath at an in-person or virtual swearing-in ceremony before a judge, justice or clerk of a court of record, commanding officer if in the military service, the American Consul if in a foreign country, or anyone authorized to administer oaths. If you are currently residing outside of California, it is not necessary for you to return to California to take the attorney's oath; you may take the oath before any official authorized to administer them. For a list of those authorized to administer oaths, please see the [Taking the Attorney Oath webpage](#).

The State Bar has enabled digital signing and electronic processing of oath cards. For information on registering as an attorney, enrollment, fees, MCLE requirements, and the New Attorney Training Program, please refer to the [Virtual Oath Packet webpage](#) and the [Oath Card FAQs](#).

For information regarding admission to the U.S. District Court, please consult the court's website:

[Central District](#)

[Eastern District](#)

[Northern District](#)

[Southern District](#)

Rule 4.17 Admission Certification and Time Limit

Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 2, Rule 4.17 of the *Rules of the State Bar of California (Admissions Rules)* requires that you take the attorney's oath within five years after the last day of administration of the bar exam that you passed. Otherwise, you become ineligible for admission. If the time period expires, you will have to take and pass the California Bar Exam again and meet all other admission requirements, including having a current positive moral character determination on file, in order to be admitted. **Your bar exam results are valid for five years from the last day of administration of the exam you passed.**

Once you have been informed that you have fulfilled all the requirements for admission to practice law and you have been certified to the Supreme Court of California as eligible to practice law, it is not necessary to file any additional applications or reapplications, including moral character, during the period between the last date of the exam you passed and the expiration of five years from that date, before taking the attorney's oath. If, however, there is an incident that might affect the validity of your positive moral character determination, you must immediately

notify the committee. A positive moral character determination is valid for 36 months, and an applicant with a positive determination who has not yet been certified to practice law within that 36-month period must submit an extension application. If an extension application is not submitted prior to the expiration date of the positive moral character determination, the applicant must file a new moral character application if they wish to pursue admission to the practice of law. (*Admissions Rules*, Rule 4.51.)

Certificate of Admission

The standard wall certificate is printed on white cardstock paper with non-raised lettering and a printed border, measures 11 x 15.5 inches, and includes the embossed gold Supreme Court seal. Your name and date of admission are underlined and lithographically impressed to match the certificate text. It is produced by the California Supreme Court and takes approximately 10 weeks to process. The standard wall certificate is free of charge.

Customized admission certificates are available to those who wish to order them. The custom wall certificate is printed on cream parchment paper with raised lettering, measures 11 x 14 inches, and includes the embossed gold Supreme Court seal. Your name and date of admission are lithographically impressed to match the certificate text. It is produced by a third-party vendor and takes approximately six weeks to process. The cost of a custom wall certificate is \$90.00.

Once your bar number has been assigned, you will be able to order your wall certificate following the instructions below:

- Log in to the [Applicant Portal](#) using your Office of Admissions account. Do not create a new account, as licensees can only order with their historical Admissions account.
- Under the Apply icon, select View Forms to view available California State Bar applications and forms.
- Under Services, select either the Standard or Custom Wall Certificate Request.
- Select Launch Application to proceed to the Wall Certificate Request.

Transfer of MBE Scores to Other Jurisdictions

The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) will transfer your Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) score to admitting authorities in other jurisdictions upon request and payment of a fee. An MBE Score Transfer Request may be completed and submitted online through the [NCBE website](#). In accordance with Chapter 5, Rule 4.62(B) of the *Admissions Rules*, applicants who pass the California Bar Exam **are not** entitled to receive their answers or to see their scores from the exam. The NCBE will advise applicants whether their scores meet other jurisdictions' minimum requirements and will transfer the score upon request and payment of a fee.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: YOU WILL NOT BE ENROLLED AS AN ATTORNEY UNTIL YOU HAVE TAKEN THE OATH AND YOUR COMPLETED STATE BAR REGISTRATION CARD IS RECEIVED BY THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF ATTORNEY REGULATION & CONSUMER RESOURCES.