

January 19, 2024



With less than six weeks to go before the February 27–28 Bar Exam, here's what you need to know to make sure you're ready for exam day. We'll be sending you these countdown emails weekly until the exam.

Key Dates and Deadlines

January 30: First day that admittance tickets are available

January 30: First day that laptop users may download and take the **mandatory** mock exam

February 1: Deadline to appeal the outcome of a testing accommodations petition

February 2: Deadline for applicants from San Diego and Sacramento areas to withdraw for credit (see notice below)

February 23: Deadline for laptop users to complete the mandatory mock exam and download exam files

February 29 (12:00 p.m. Pacific Time): Deadline for laptop users to upload answer files

[More Bar Exam Dates and Deadlines](#)

New for the February Exam: Testing Centers and Water Bottles

Starting with the February 2024 exam, the State Bar has reduced the number of testing centers throughout the state to save costs. Visit the [Testing Locations](#) webpage for more information.

Applicants should anticipate more applicants at the test sites and arrive early to ensure sufficient time to park and settle into their testing space. Closer to the exam, we will send out more information about the new test centers to help test takers prepare for these changes.

Also, test takers will now be allowed to bring one water bottle into the testing center. It must be a clear, plastic container with a lid no larger than 32 ounces. It must have no labels or writing. Water will also be available at all the testing locations.

[Consult our FAQs](#) for more information about logistics, health and safety requirements, and how to ensure you receive important communications from the State Bar and ExamSoft.

Notice to Feb 2024 Bar Exam Examinees from the Sacramento and San Diego Areas

Following public input at the January 18 Board of Trustees meeting, applicants from the Sacramento and San Diego metropolitan areas can request to withdraw from the February 2024 bar exam and apply their paid fees as a credit to the July 2024 bar exam. Recognizing that the February 2024 bar exam test sites did not include sites in Sacramento and San Diego, and that the July 2024 bar exam will include sites in, or close to, these two cities, the Office of Admissions is offering this option as a one-time courtesy.

Applicants requesting an exam credit may submit a general request via the [Applicant Portal](#). Please, select Type —> Applicant Support and Subtype —> NorCal Test Sites.

The cut-off date to make this request is 11:59 p.m. on February 2, 2024. Applicants residing outside the Sacramento or San Diego metropolitan areas are not entitled to this credit. The intent of this exception is to allow applicants to test locally; applicants from outside the Sacramento and San Diego area cannot request to withdraw and be issued this credit.

Applicants who request a credit for their February 2024 bar exam and are subsequently unable or unwilling to sit for the July 2024 bar exam will forfeit their February 2024 bar exam fees.

Any other applicant wishing to withdraw for this exam will be subject to the deadlines noted on the [bar exam landing page](#).

Get Your Laptop Ready

Beginning January 30, once the State Bar has verified your eligibility to sit for the exam, your admittance ticket will be available in the Applicant Portal. Shortly after, approved applicants using laptops will receive an email from ExamSoft with instructions for downloading the exam software and taking the **mandatory** mock exam by February 23.

- Ensure your laptop meets the [minimum system requirements](#) outlined by exam software provider ExamSoft.
- Learn more about [using laptops](#) for the February 2024 bar exam so you will be ready when the software becomes available for download after January 30.
- Review [instructional videos and guides](#) on taking the mock exam.

Take Advantage of Discounted Hotel Rates

Planning to stay overnight when you take the bar exam? Many [hotels are offering special rates](#). Please pay attention to when the courtesy rates expire at each hotel. When registering, request the group rate for the State Bar of California exam.

Lawyer Assistance Program Offers Free Resources

You are eligible for free, confidential services from the State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP). The LAP can assist you with career issues, stress, relationship challenges, grief, burnout, anxiety, substance use problems, and other mental health issues. Some of the services available are:

- Two individual counseling sessions with a career counselor; and
- Two individual counseling sessions with a local therapist who specializes in working with legal professionals.

For more information on the services, please complete the [request form](#).

The LAP will also schedule **free** presentations for your law school, student association, or other law-related groups on dealing with mental health and substance use issues in the legal profession. To schedule a presentation, complete the [speaker request form](#)

Find more information on the [State Bar website](#).

A promotional banner for the Lawyer Assistance Program. The left side has a teal background with white text: "Lawyer Assistance Program" in large font, followed by "Struggling with mental health or substance use issues?" in smaller font. Below this is a yellow box with the text "We are here to help!" and contact information: "lap.calbar.ca.gov", "lap@calbar.ca.gov", and "877-LAP-4HELP" next to an envelope icon. The right side features a cityscape at sunset with a hand holding a glowing orb. The State Bar of California logo and name are in the bottom right corner.

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The State Bar of California

Need Help?

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