



The State Bar of California

Dear Applicants,

With the July 2026 California Bar Exam less than six weeks away, it's time to launch the State Bar's weekly Bar Exam Countdown Email series.

Each week, you'll receive key updates, reminders, and helpful tips directly in your inbox. These emails are designed to answer common questions and highlight important details as the exam approaches. This week, we're starting with the essentials.

Miss an email? No problem! Each message will be posted on the [Bar Exam Emails webpage](#).

JULY 2026 EXAM OVERVIEW

The July 2026 California Bar Exam will take place on **Tuesday, July 28, and Wednesday, July 29**, at testing centers across the state. Applicants with certain testing accommodations will have a [modified schedule](#) and may test beyond July 29. Attorney applicants approved for the Attorneys' Exam only sit for the written sessions.

Day 1 – Written Sessions: You'll complete five one-hour essay questions and one 90-minute Performance Test (PT). You'll receive printed exam materials and scratch paper. Bring your own laptop for the written sessions—responses will be typed in ExamSoft's Examplify software unless you are approved to handwrite your responses. Internet is not required during the exam, but you **must** download Examplify and complete the mandatory mock exam by **July 24** to register your laptop to use on exam day.

- Morning session: 3 hours (Essays 1–3)
- Afternoon session: 3.5 hours (Essays 4–5 and PT)

Each essay is designed to take one hour, and the performance test is designed to take 90 minutes. However, you may answer the questions in each session in the order that you prefer and allot your time as you see fit within each session. Once you complete each session you may not return to it.

Day 2 – Multistate Bar Examination Sessions: The second day features the [Multistate Bar Examination \(MBE\)](#)—200 multiple-choice questions developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. You'll receive a printed question booklet and mark answers on a Scantron sheet. Bring soft lead #2 pencils (mechanical pencils are not allowed). Do not bring your laptop to the MBE sessions (you will not be permitted to bring it into the exam room).

- Morning session: 3 hours (first 100 questions)
- Afternoon session: 3 hours (remaining 100 questions)

For more information, visit the [July 2026 California Bar Exam webpage](#).

UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- **June 30 – Admittance Tickets & Bulletin:** Admittance Tickets will start to be released in the [Applicant Portal](#) to applicants approved to sit for the exam. The ticket includes your test center assignment. You must bring this ticket with you each day of the exam. You'll also receive the Admittance Ticket Bulletin with exam rules, policies, and permitted/prohibited items lists. This bulletin is also available on the State Bar's website.
- **June 30 – ExamSoft registration opens:** Watch for an email from ExamSoft with instructions to download Examplify, complete the mandatory mock exam, and register your laptop. The email will be sent once applicants are deemed eligible to sit for the exam.
- **July 1 – Testing accommodations appeal:** This is the final deadline to submit testing accommodation appeals. All appeals must be submitted through the [Applicant Portal](#).
- **July 6 – Test center change:** This is the final deadline to submit a request to change your test center via the [Applicant Portal](#). We'll do our best to accommodate all change requests, but availability isn't guaranteed. Please allow at least 48 hours for processing. If your request is approved, you will receive a confirmation email. You must print a new copy of your Admittance Ticket reflecting the new test site. You will NOT be permitted to sit at any test center other than the one you have been approved for.
- **July 14 – Withdraw:** Applicants wanting to withdraw from the exam must withdraw by this date. Please note that refunds of bar exam fees were only available for the first 30 or 45 days after the timely filing deadline. Refunds are no longer available for withdrawals except in the limited circumstances described in the [Refund of Fees Policy](#).
- **July 14 – Proof of eligibility:** This is the final deadline for law schools to submit proof of applicant eligibility, for applicants required to submit transcripts or provide proof of law study, and for attorney applicants to submit Certificates of Good Standing from all jurisdictions where they are licensed.
- **July 17 – Emergency testing accommodations:** This is the final deadline for those who become disabled after the final exam application filing deadline to submit an emergency testing accommodations request through the [Applicant Portal](#). This does not apply to disabilities that existed before the final exam application filing deadline.
- **July 24 – Laptop registration and mandatory mock exam:** This is the final deadline to complete the mandatory mock exam and register your laptop to use on exam day. Failure to complete this step by July 24 means you will handwrite your responses on exam day.

PENDING APPLICATION OR REQUEST

Seeing “pending” in the [Applicant Portal](#)? Here's what it means:

- **Exam Application = Pending Internal:** We're reviewing your application. No action is needed unless we contact you.
- **Exam Application = Pending Applicant:** We're waiting for something from you or your school (often certification of an applicant's eligibility); no action is needed from the applicant unless we contact you. Attorney applicants must submit Certificates of Good Standing by July 14.
- **Eligibility = Conditionally Eligible:** Your law school certified your eligibility but hasn't sent your transcript. You can sit for this exam but you must submit a transcript for future exams or admission. If you have already sat for a prior exam, you were previously notified by email to submit a transcript.
- **Testing Accommodations Request or Appeal = Pending Internal or Applicant:** No action needed unless we reach out.

PREPARE YOUR LAPTOP

Starting **June 30**, ExamSoft will email applicants approved to sit for the exam with instructions for downloading Examplify—the software for submitting responses to essays and the PT. The email also includes instructions for completing the mandatory mock exam and registering your laptop. This step ensures your device works properly and helps you get familiar with the platform. [Safelist emails](#) from [@calbar.ca.gov](#), [barsupport@examsoft.com](#), [support@examsoft.com](#), [noreply@examsoft.com](#), and [docusign.net](#) to ensure you receive this and other important emails.

To prepare your laptop before the exam:

- Make sure your laptop meets the [minimum system requirements](#) for running Examplify.
- Follow the instructions provided by ExamSoft to download and install Examplify and register your laptop to be used on exam day.
- Complete the mandatory mock exam and upload the mock exam answer file. The deadline to complete this step is July 24.

For more information, visit the [Laptops for the California Bar Examination webpage](#).

SUPPORT FOR RETAKERS

Retaking the bar exam can be challenging. The State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program offers the Reset: Bar Examination Retaker Support Program to help you approach the exam with confidence. [Register](#) to view upcoming live sessions and recorded sessions, including:

- Resilience Reset (recorded)
- Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) (recorded)
- Performance Test: (recorded)
- Essays: (recorded)
- End Game Study Strategies & Self-Care for the Final Push: Monday, July 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

NEXT WEEK'S EMAIL

In our next update, we'll cover what's included in your Admittance Ticket and the Admittance Ticket Bulletin, how to get ready for the mandatory mock exam, and key tips for using your laptop on exam day.

Sincerely,

Office of Admissions
The State Bar of California



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