



SUPREME COURT • The Judiciary

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice ▪ P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI Bar Examination Information

I. APPLICATIONS

An application shall consist of:

- (1) General Application Form A;
- (2) Affidavit Form B;
- (3) Authorization and Release Form C;
- (4) NCBE Request for Preparation of Character Report Form D and prescribed fee in accordance with Rule 71-5;
- (5) NCBE Application and Authorization and Release Forms which must be filled out online and can be found at the NCBE official website;
- (6) Evidence of educational qualification as set forth in Rule 71-2(b);
- (7) Payment of fees as set forth in Rule 71-6; and
- (8) Any other forms that the Board requests be filed with the Bar Administrator.

The applicant shall submit one (1) original and one (1) copy of the application forms.

The application forms must be filed with the Bar Administrator at the Commonwealth Supreme Court along with the required fee no later than 60 days prior to the first day of the examination. Late applications are accepted between 60 and 45 days prior to the first day of examination, but late fees are imposed. **All fees paid are nonrefundable and nontransferable.** If you are unable to test on the date for which you are registered, your registration cannot be transferred; you must complete the registration process for another test date and pay the full fee.

(a) Regular Applicant

The fee for Regular Applicant is **\$500.00**. Late application fee is **\$800.00**. (payable to CNMI Treasury by cashier's check or money order)

In addition, the following fees are assessed:

Character Report fee	The fee ranges from \$225.00 to \$825.00 (See NCBE application form)
Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) fee	\$64.00 (Payable to NCBE)
Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) fee	\$95.00 (late filing is \$190.00), Send with MPRE application to NCBE

(b) Attorney Applicant

The attorney application fee is **\$1,000.00**. In addition, a character report fee is assessed. Late application fee is **\$1,300.00**. (payable to CNMI Treasury by cashier's check or money order)

If the applicant is an attorney licensed to practice in any of the states, territories or possessions of the United States and the applicant has been in active practice of law for at least five years out of the last 10 years, then the applicant can apply to take the attorney's bar examination.

Special attention should be paid to verifying the applicant's attorney license and practice requirements. The applicant must satisfy the court that he or she is qualified to take the attorney's examination. Whether the attorney applicant has satisfied the required number of years of practice of law shall be exclusively determined by the Supreme Court. **The applicant shall provide the Court with a Declaration which states with specificity the type of work, the dates the work was completed, and that such work qualifies as the active practice of law, a Certificate of Bar Admission and Good Standing from every jurisdiction he or she has been admitted to practice when filing as an attorney applicant.**

II. THE EXAMINATION

The bar examination includes two (2), thirty (30) minute essay questions based on local law and the MEE & MPT exams prepared by the NCBE. UBE scores from other jurisdictions will not be accepted. Scores earned in this jurisdiction are not transferrable to other UBE jurisdictions. All portions of the bar examination must be taken and passed in one attempt, except as provided in Rule 72-2 and Rule 72-1(d). Bifurcation of the Commonwealth bar examination is not allowed.

(1) The examination consists of six (6), thirty (30) minute Multistate Essay Examination ("MEE") questions; two (2), ninety (90) minute MPT tasks, and the MBE.

(A) Topic areas which the MEE and MPT may test on are determined by the NCBE and are available at the NCBE's official website.

(2) **Local Content Essays.** Essays based on local law are administered on the same day the MEE and MPT are administered. Local content essay questions shall cover such subjects as the Board may prescribe and those topics are announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the bar examination.

The Board shall provide all applicants with a list of local authorities in order to prepare for the local content essays. The authorities will be provided to the applicants for preparation purposes only. Applicants shall not be permitted to consult with these authorities during the bar examination.

Other Procedures.

Applicants are required to write legibly. Each essay question must be answered in three pages only or less – one side of the paper only, unless more pages are indicated. Standard answer sheets will be provided on examination day. Bring at least three (3) ball point pens with black ink to write your answers.

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)

The MPRE is a two-hour, fifty-question examination administered three times a year. Information on specific testing dates, fees, and applications can be obtained directly from NCBE or the Bar Administrator. The applicant is responsible for applying and arranging to take the MPRE either in the Commonwealth or in another jurisdiction. Only those applicants who apply in the Commonwealth or whose names are received from the American College Testing or NCBE will be allowed to take the exam.

III. GRADING

- (1) Raw scores earned in the MEE and the MPT portions of the bar examination are combined and scaled to the MBE to calculate scaled essay scores. MBE scores are weighted 50%, MEE scores are weighted 30%, and MPT scores are weighted 20% in calculating scaled total scores, which are expressed on a 400-point scale. A total score of at least 260 is required to pass.
- (2) Local Content Essays. Local content essays are expressed on a forty (40) point scale. A raw score of at least 65% is required to pass the LCE.
- (3) An applicant must earn a passing score on the UBE and a passing score on the LCE within 18 month time period in order to pass the bar examination.
- (4) Regrading. All test scores which are within five (5) points of a passing grade shall be automatically regraded by a different grader. No other circumstances will give rise to a regrade and bar examinations will not be regraded at the request of the applicant.

Waiver of MBE Requirements

- (1) If the applicant has taken the MBE within the preceding three (3) years of the bar examination for the applicant applies, and has attained a scaled score of 130 or higher, the applicant does not have to retake the MBE. The applicant must earn a scaled score of at least 65% on the MEE and MPT and a raw score of at least 65% on the LCE to pass the bar examination.
- (2) It is the responsibility of the applicant to have the NCBE, or the jurisdiction holding the score, to forward the applicant's score to the Bar Administrator by February 1 for the February bar examination of the same year and by July 1 for the July bar examination of the same year. If the transferred MBE score is not timely certified, the applicant may be required to sit for the MBE portion of the bar examination.

- (3) Applicants who rely upon a previously earned MBE score will not earn a portable UBE score that can be used to seek admission in other jurisdictions.

MPRE

The MPRE is graded under the auspices of NCBE. A scaled score of 80 or greater is the passing score on the MPRE.

The MPRE may be taken prior to or after the bar examination. An applicant must pass the MPRE examination within three (3) years before the bar examination or obtain the results of the MPRE within six months after taking the bar examination in order to comply with the time restrictions prescribed in Rule 75-2(a). It is the responsibility of the applicant to have the NCBE timely forwards the score to the Bar Administrator.

Should the applicant need to take the MPRE in the Commonwealth, he or she must apply directly to NCBE.

No Combining of Scores

An applicant must separately pass the Essay, MBE and MPRE portions of the bar examination. The scores from each portion shall not be combined and averaged.

Credit for Portions of Examination

- (1) If an applicant takes and passes the MBE or MPRE, he or she need not take that portion of the exam again. If the MBE or MPRE score is not passing, the applicant shall retake the portion failed, regardless of whether he or she has passed the essay portion of the exam.
- (2) If an applicant fails to pass only the essay portion of the exam, he or she must retake and pass that portion of the exam, regardless of whether he or she has passed both the MBE and MPRE.
- (3) Where an applicant has failed either the MBE or MPRE or both, a passing score on the essay portion of the exam shall be valid for a period of six (6) months from the date of the letter of licensure.

For further information, please contact:

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