

May 5, 2011

Dean Katz's Message re: Bar Passage

Our February 2011 bar results are in and the news is very good. Our first-time takers passed at a rate of **80%** before appeals. This is up from 76% last February, 69% the prior February, and 58% in February 2007—a great improvement.

Those that passed the February bar exam join a highly successful group of July 2010 first-time takers from Denver Law, who passed at a rate of **88%**. Our combined pass rate for these two exams, the best indicator of performance for our graduates who graduated in the last year, is **87%** before appeals. This is **2% greater than the statewide average** for these two exams—a significant accomplishment. (Our Strategic Plan goal for this cohort was to equal or exceed the state average, which is no easy feat given the numbers of Denver Law graduates who take the exam.)

The improvement we have seen is likely the result of several factors, including the hard work of our graduates, and our commitment to implementing the first two elements of our four-prong bar passage initiative: (1) an enhanced focus on bar passage for our students while they are in school, including in our excellent Academic Achievement Program, and (2) our first-rate Bar Success Program, which is free to our graduates and strongly complements commercial bar courses. Starting with the bar exam this July, we also should start to see the impact of the final two parts of our bar passage initiative: The students who will graduate this May will be the first class admitted under our new, bar-focused admissions policy and the first class that was required to comply with our new, heightened law school performance standards.

Please join me in congratulating our February 2011 bar passers, and welcoming them to the profession.

Regards,



Dean & Professor Martin J. Katz
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