Demystifying the Bar:
From 1L to Swearing In

Pat Mellen, Esq. – JD 12/2016
Where do you want to practice? UBE States v. Non-UBE States
# UBE States Passing Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Passing UBE Score</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Alabama, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>266</td>
<td>Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Virgin Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270</td>
<td>Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>273</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>276</td>
<td>Colorado, Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since jurisdiction rules and policies change, you are strongly advised to consult the jurisdiction's bar admission agency directly for the most current information.
# Colorado Pass Rates – July 2017

## First Time Takers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
<th>DU</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)

Day 1: MEE – 6 Essays
MPT – 2 Problems

**Core + Additional Topics**
- Business Associations
- Conflict of Laws
- Family Law
- Trusts and Estates
- Secured Transactions

Day 2: MBE 200 Multiple Choice Questions

**Core Topics Only**
- Civil Procedure
- Contracts
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law/Procedure
- Evidence
- Real Property
- Torts
Bar Exam – MEE/MPT Skills

- **MEE – Multistate Essay Examination**
  - Focus on Writing Skills
  - “Boring organization gets all the points” – Prof. Russell

- **MPT – Multistate Performance Test**
  - Lawyering Process Skills
  - Client-centric Projects
    - Objective Memos
    - Client Letters
    - Evidence Plans

- Ethics Competency Expected
Bar Exam Preparation
Traditional Study Plan

- Graduation to Test Gap Period (~10 weeks)
  - May – Late July
  - December – Late February

- Gap Study Support Options
  - Commercial Bar Prep Options ($$$)
  - DU Bar Success Program
  - Supplemental Self Study
Commercial Bar Prep Options
Bar Exam Planning

- Time Management
  - Priorities
  - Deadlines and Checklists

- Work Expectations
  - Study Period
  - Results Waiting Period + Swearing In

- Costs
  - Application Fees – Bar Exam $710
  - MPRE – $95
  - Professionalism Class – $100
  - Commercial Prep Programs – $$$ Varies

- Financial Planning
  - Savings
  - Bar Study Loans
Bar Exam Preparation
Longer Term Planning

Law School Course Work
- Required Classes
  - CivPro, CrimLaw, ConLaw, Contracts, (Real) Property, Torts, Lawyering Process
- Electives
  - Commercial Law, Con Law II, Crim Pro, Family Law, Trust & Estates, Conflicts of Law, Corporations, Agency Partnership LLCs

Practical Experience
- Internships/Externships
- Clinics
- Work/Study
Bar Exam Preparation
Class-Based Contributions

- Black Letter Federal Law
- Federal Rules Civil & Criminal Procedure
- Generally Applicable Legal Principles
- Common Factual Frameworks
- Problem Solving
- Issue Spotting
## Evidence: Relevance & Admissibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Evidence is relevant if probative and material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>i) It has any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the evidence (probative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) The fact is of consequence in determining the action (material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>403 Objection</td>
<td>The Court may exclude relevant evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by a danger of one or more of the following</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>i) Unfair prejudice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) Confusing the issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>iii) Misleading the jury</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>iv) Undue delay</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>v) Wasting time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vi) Needlessly presenting cumulative evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>Offers of Proof</td>
<td>When the relevance of evidence depends upon whether a fact exists, proof must be introduced sufficient to support a finding that the fact does exist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Logistics FAQs

- Office of Attorney Admissions restrictions
- Location, location, location
- Basic needs
- Delayed exam results
- Character and Fitness parallel process
- Swearing In
Self Awareness

- Know your learning style
  - Verbal/Written/Auditory
  - Plan for breaks and cabin fever

- Memorization techniques
  - Flashcards
  - Memory Palace

- Mitigation of test taking “tics”
  - Self care is critical
  - Stress management