

1981 Bar Examination Statistics

PREFATORY NOTE

A record number of 59,307 applicants wrote the February and July, 1981 bar examination. Comparable figures were 58,040 in 1980, 57,676 in 1979 and 53,980 in 1978. However, the total of those who passed dropped slightly from 67.1% in 1980 to 65.9% in 1981.

In 1981, a larger number of applicants wrote the bar examination in 30 jurisdictions than in 1980; in 23 jurisdictions, a smaller number wrote the examination in 1981 than in 1980. The largest increase in the number of applicants (752) was in New York. The second largest (329) was in the District of Columbia. California had 350 fewer applicants in 1981 than in 1980 and Georgia had a decrease of 388 in 1981 over 1980. The most interesting comparison appears in the number of applicants writing the Texas examination (2,439 in 1980 and 2,438 in 1981).

In eight jurisdictions (Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, South Carolina, Utah and the Virgin Islands) 90% or better of the persons who took the bar examination passed. In three jurisdictions (California, Georgia and Puerto Rico), less than 50% of those who took the 1981 bar examination passed. Of the major jurisdictions, California's overall

passing rate of 42.2% clearly was the lowest.

The number of applicants writing the examination who prepared by law office study continued to decrease, 18 such applicants in 1981 as against 25 in 1980.

One category which evidenced a significant departure from the previous year was the number of persons who passed the bar examination having graduated from unaccredited law schools. In 1980, 2,054 persons graduating from unaccredited law schools passed; in 1981, the figure dropped by 35% to 1,334, largely because of a decrease of 618 in California.

The 78.9 percent of first timers who passed in 1981 showed a small percentage gain over the 77.5 percent who passed in 1980. Conversely, the percentage of repeaters who passed showed a small decline from 34.8 percent in 1980 to 32.0 percent in 1981.

We acknowledge with appreciation the splendid cooperation of examining boards in supplying 1981 bar examination statistical data.

These statistics were compiled by Len Young Smith.

Persons Taking and Passing the 1981 Bar Examination

State	1981 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Percent Passing	Total Passing From ABA Approved Law Schools	Total Passing Prepared By Law Office Study	Total Passing From Unaccredited Law Schools
Alabama	February	188	109	57.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	454	343	75.5	642	452	70.4	376	N/A	76
Alaska	February	94	62	65.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	117	79	67.5	211	141	66.8	141	N/A	N/A
Arizona	February	223	156	69.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	470	352	74.8	693	508	73.3	508	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	February	92	66	71.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	209	149	71.2	301	215	71.4	215	N/A	N/A
California	February	4,453	1,446	32.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	7,625	3,672	48.1	12,078	5,112 ¹	42.3	3,672 ²	4	978
Colorado	February	390	293	75.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	728	568	78.0	1,118	861	77.0	861	N/A	N/A
Connecticut	February	337	160	47.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	734	537	73.1	1,071	697	65.0	697	N/A	N/A
Delaware	February	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	95	75	78.9	95	75	78.9	75	N/A	N/A
District of Columbia	February	1,073	624	58.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,944	1,125	57.8	3,017	1,749	57.9	1,749	N/A	N/A
Florida	See Editor's Note (page 28)									
Georgia	February	1,295	602	46.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	892	349	39.1	2,187	951	43.4	725	N/A	226

Persons Taking and Passing the 1981 Bar Examination

State	1981 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Percent Passing	Total Passing From ABA Approved Law Schools	Total Passing Prepared By Law Office Study	Total Passing From Unaccredited Law Schools
Guam ³		—	—	—	15	11	73.3	11	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	February	90	70	77.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	199	183	91.9	289	253	87.5	251	N/A	2
Idaho	February	103	94	91.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	55	50	90.9	158	144	91.1	144	N/A	N/A
Illinois	February	857	676	78.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,989	1,794	90.1	2,846	2,470	86.7	2,467	N/A	3
Indiana	February	244	212	86.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	352	291	82.6	596	503	84.3	486	N/A	17
Iowa	January	82	72	87.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	June	300	275	91.6	382	347	90.8	347	N/A	N/A
Kansas	February	87	72	82.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	250	213	85.2	337	285	84.5	285	N/A	N/A
Kentucky	February	155	121	78.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	305	258	84.5	460	379	82.3	379	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	February	240	168	70.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	614	483	78.6	854	651	76.2	651	N/A	N/A
Maine	February	39	24	61.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	149	126	84.5	188	150	79.7	150	N/A	N/A
Maryland	February	497	372	74.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	792	500	63.1	1,289	872	67.6	757	N/A	25
Massachusetts	February	360	236	65.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,645	1,399	85.0	2,005	1,635	81.5	1,635	N/A	N/A
Michigan	February	680	514	75.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	993	763	76.8	1,673	1,277	76.3	1,277	N/A	N/A
Minnesota	February	213	186	87.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	679	623	91.7	892	809	90.6	809	N/A	N/A
Mississippi	February	57	37	64.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	85	68	80.0	142	105	73.9	102	1	2
Missouri	February	620	492	79.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	182	137	75.2	802	629	78.4	629	N/A	N/A
Montana	July	51	39	76.4	51	39	76.4	39	N/A	N/A
Nebraska	February	48	43	89.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	216	192	88.8	264	235	89.0	235	N/A	N/A
Nevada	July	205	160	78.0	205	160	78.0	160	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire	February	50	30	60.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	150	110	73.3	200	140	70.0	140	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	February	690	363	52.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,496	996	66.5	2,186	1,359	62.1	1,359	N/A	N/A
New Mexico	February	138	100	72.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	219	179	81.7	357	279	78.1	279	N/A	N/A
New York	February	1,961	1,013	51.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	5,307	3,769	71.0	7,268	4,782	65.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Carolina	February	194	102	52.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	548	454	82.8	742	556	74.9	556	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	February	13	12	92.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	79	72	91.1	92	84	91.3	84	N/A	N/A
Ohio	February	547	400	73.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,436	1,093	76.1	1,983	1,493	75.2	1,493	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma	February	192	166	86.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	382	319	83.5	574	485	84.4	485	N/A	N/A
Oregon	February	212	152	71.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	498	365	73.2	710	517	72.8	517	N/A	N/A

Persons Taking and Passing the 1981 Bar Examination

State	1981 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Percent Passing	Total Passing From ABA Approved Law Schools	Total Passing Prepared By Law Office Study	Total Passing From Unaccredited Law Schools
Pennsylvania	February	639	411	64.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,074	1,673	80.6	2,713	2,084	76.8	2,084	N/A	N/A
Puerto Rico	March	303	94	31.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	September	519	211	40.6	822	305	37.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rhode Island	February	48	38	79.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	139	115	82.7	187	153	81.8	153	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	February	108	98	90.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	206	189	91.7	314	287	91.4	287	N/A	N/A
South Dakota	July	27	25	92.5	27	25	92.5	25	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	February	226	164	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	451	390	86.4	677	554	81.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	February	692	606	87.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,746	1,442	82.5	2,438	2,048	84.0	2,048	N/A	N/A
Utah	February	61	53	86.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	179	167	93.2	240	220	91.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vermont	February	55	30	54.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	78	41	52.5	133	71	53.3	65	4	2
Virgin Islands	July	27	25	92.5	27	25	92.5	25	N/A	N/A
Virginia	February	653	410	62.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	581	304	52.3	1,234	714	57.8	705	9	N/A
Washington	February	358	279	77.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	726	550	75.7	1,084	829	76.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Virginia	February	25	19	76.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	71	56	78.8	96	75	78.1	75	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	July	235	205	87.2	235	205	87.2	201	N/A	3
Wyoming	February	26	17	65.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	81	66	81.4	107	83	77.5	83	N/A	N/A
Total		59,307	39,088	65.9	59,307	39,088	65.9	30,499	18	1,334

¹ Includes 232 delayed admissions.

² Does not include applicants taking initial examination more than one year after date of examination.

³ Guam administered the Examination in February, July and November.



**Editor's Note: Sequential Admission Comment by John H. Moore, Executive Director,
Florida Board of Bar Examiners**

Prior to June 1, 1981 the Rules for admission provided for a three-part examination. The character and fitness function was separated from the bar examination function of the Board. There are four examinations each year in Florida.

Florida applicants faced four specific areas of required achievement which could be accomplished in whatever order best suited the circumstances of the individual applicants. These areas consisted of Parts I, II and III of the bar examination plus full compliance with the character and fitness requirements.

Part I of the examination was a combination of essay and machine scored items, all of which were prepared in Florida. Part II was the MBE and could be completed outside the State. Part III was a one-hour examination on professional responsibility. There were four opportunities each year to complete Parts I and III and two opportunities to complete Part II.

Only those who had accomplished all four phases of qualification were admitted and those admitted were not necessarily those who submitted to the entire examination presented during any one statistical reporting year.

On June 1, 1981 a Rules change became effective which involves the format, administration and scoring of the Florida Bar Examination.

The Florida Bar Examination beginning with the July 1981 administration consisted of the General Bar Examination (Part A, the Florida portion formerly known as Part I, and Part B, the Multistate Bar Examination, formerly known as Part II); and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) which has been substituted for the Florida-prepared Professional Responsibility Examination. The General Bar Examination is offered twice a year in February and July.

- I = Florida Portion
- II = Multistate Bar Examination
- III = Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

1981 Administration	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
	<i>Number Taking</i>			<i>Number Passing</i>			<i>Percent Passing</i>					
February	812	929	—	622	702	—	76.6	75.9	—			
May	447	N/A	—	368	N/A	—	82.3	N/A	—			
July (Parts I & II)	1,260			804			63.8					
	<i>Total Taking</i>			<i>Total Passing</i>			<i>Total Passing ABA Approved</i>			<i>Unaccredited</i>		
	1,259	929	—	990	702	—	1,793	700	—	1	1	—

First Timers and Repeaters in 1981

State	1981 Adminis- tration	First-Timers		Repeaters		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking Examination	Percent Passing for Year		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking 1981
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing		1st Timers	Repeaters	
Alabama	February	112	64	76	49	40	—	—	—
	July	398	79	56	50	12	76	49	21
Alaska	February	63	81	31	32	33	—	—	—
	July	96	53	21	38	18	77	35	29
Arizona	February	140	72	83	66	11	—	—	—
	July	416	79	54	43	27	77	57	20
California	February	1,350	49	3,103	25	70	—	—	—
	July	4,889	65	2,736	19	36	42	22	48
Colorado	February	274	78	116	69	30	—	—	—
	July	641	83	87	41	12	82	57	18
Connecticut	February	184	63	153	29	45	—	—	—
	July	574	81	160	46	22	76	28	29
Delaware	February	87	69	8	63	8	69	63	8
District of Columbia	February	605	77	468	34	44	—	—	—
	July	1,570	67	374	20	19	70	28	28

First Timers and Repeaters in 1981

State	1981 Adminis- tration	First-Timers		Repeaters		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking Examination	Percent Passing for Year		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking 1981
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing		1st Timers	Repeaters	
Georgia	February	697	72	598	17	46	—	—	—
	July	379	70	513	17	58	71	17	28
Guam	1	12	67	3	100	20	67	100	20
Hawaii	February	87	80	3	33	3	—	—	—
	July	185	94	14	71	7	90	65	6
Idaho	February	100	92	3	67	3	—	—	—
	July	49	90	6	100	7	91	89	6
Illinois	February	686	88	171	40	20	—	—	—
	July	1,838	93	151	52	8	92	46	11
Indiana	February	217	90	27	59	11	—	—	—
	July	329	85	23	48	7	87	52	8
Iowa	February	71	87	11	91	13	—	—	—
	July	291	92	9	89	3	91	90	5
Kansas	February	63	90	24	63	18	—	—	—
	July	240	88	10	20	4	88	50	10
Kentucky	February	123	81	32	66	21	—	—	—
	July	280	89	25	32	8	87	51	12
Louisiana	February	98	41	142	72	59	—	—	—
	July	545	82	69	54	11	76	66	25
Maine	February	31	65	8	50	21	—	—	—
	July	141	86	8	63	5	82	56	9
Maryland	February	291	84	206	63	41	—	—	—
	July	656	72	136	21	17	74	46	27
Massachusetts	February	249	88	111	31	31	—	—	—
	July	1,545	93	100	40	7	87	36	11
Michigan	February	481	93	199	34	29	—	—	—
	July	855	81	138	37	14	87	35	20
Minnesota	February	147	90	66	82	31	—	—	—
	July	644	93	35	63	5	93	75	11
Mississippi	February	39	70	18	56	32	—	—	—
	July	68	82	17	70	20	78	63	25
Missouri	February	595	80	25	60	4	—	—	—
	July	121	80	61	66	34	80	64	11
Montana	July	44	75	7	86	14	76	86	14
Nebraska	February	31	94	17	82	35	—	—	—
	July	212	90	4	75	3	90	81	8
Nevada	July	177	86	28	32	14	86	32	14
New Hampshire	February	38	71	12	25	24	—	—	—
	July	138	78	12	25	8	76	25	12
New Jersey	February	261	64	429	45	62	—	—	—
	July	1,201	74	295	36	20	72	41	33
New Mexico	February	70	86	68	59	49	—	—	—
	July	190	89	29	31	13	88	51	27
New York	February	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	July	4,686	76	621	32	12	N/A	N/A	N/A

First Timers and Repeaters in 1981

State	1981 Adminis- tration	First-Timers		Repeaters		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking Examination	Percent Passing for Year		Percent Repeaters to Total Taking 1981
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing		1st Timers	Repeaters	
North Carolina	February	49	73	145	46	75	—	—	—
	July	180	88	68	44	12	87	45	29
North Dakota	February	1	100	12	92	92	—	—	—
	July	58	96	21	76	76	96	82	37
Ohio	February	377	83	170	51	31	—	—	—
	July	1,306	80	130	33	9	81	43	15
Oklahoma	February	151	92	32	56	17	—	—	—
	July	360	88	22	18	6	89	41	9
Oregon	February	123	68	89	76	42	—	—	—
	July	446	77	52	42	10	77	64	20
Pennsylvania	February	383	80	256	41	40	—	—	—
	July	1,886	86	188	27	10	85	35	16
Puerto Rico	March	96	45	209	24	69	—	—	—
	September	326	56	199	16	38	53	20	50
Rhode Island	February	37	89	11	45	23	—	—	—
	July	129	87	10	30	7	87	38	11
South Carolina	February	94	98	14	43	13	—	—	—
	July	202	92	4	75	2	94	50	6
South Dakota	July	26	92	1	100	4	92	100	4
Tennessee	February	147	91	79	56	35	—	—	—
	July	397	90	54	56	12	91	52	20
Texas	February	620	90	72	65	10	—	—	—
	July	1,618	88	128	13	7	89	32	8
Utah	February	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—
	July	173	94	6	67	3	94	67	3
Vermont	February	20	45	35	60	64	—	—	—
	July	62	60	16	25	21	56	49	38
Virgin Islands	July	24	100	3	33	11	100	33	11
Virginia	February	496	70	137	42	24	—	—	—
	July	383	58	198	41	34	64	42	29
Washington ³									
West Virginia	February	19	84	6	50	24	—	—	—
	July	63	84	8	38	11	84	43	—
Wisconsin	July	228	89	7	29	3	89	29	3
Wyoming	February	17	65	9	67	35	—	—	—
	July	77	82	4	75	5	79	69	12
Total		41,722 ²	75.4	14,487	31.7	24.4	75.4	31.7	22.7

¹ Guam administered the examination in February, July and November.

² Not counting 1,961 (NY), 1,084 (WA) and 6 (VT).

³ Information not available.



Admission to Bar by States—1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981

State	Admission by Examination				Admission by Diploma				Admission of Foreign Attorneys on Motion			
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981
Alabama	378	404	401	452	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Alaska	156	144	121	141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Arizona	478	476	473	508	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	219	264	207	215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California	5,644	6,275	5,326	5,344	—	—	—	—	20	30	21	15
									236	201	—	—
Colorado	633	684	645	861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Connecticut	500	654	566	697	—	—	—	—	36	30	25	53
Delaware	56	84	80	71	—	—	—	—	N/A	30	25	30
District of Columbia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	1,278	1,491	1,727	1,812 ¹	—	—	—	—	1,923	2,396	2,038	992
	2,002	2,342	2,340	2,220	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia	898	1,200	943	951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	23	26	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	264	214	262	253	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Idaho	151	154	153	144	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Illinois	2,213	2,433	2,645	2,470	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
									55	43	N/A	37
Indiana	489	579	532	503	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	348	348	340	347	—	—	—	—	20	24	42	—
Kansas	292	321	279	285	—	—	—	—	12	6	19	9
Kentucky	426	496	413	379	—	—	—	—	9	8	22	15
Louisiana	643	651	620	651	—	—	—	—	23	25	28	42
									—	—	—	—
Maine	155	140	184	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	681	677	766	829	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	1,487	1,529	1,658	1,635	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Michigan	1,181	1,279	1,212	1,277	N/A	N/A	—	—	47	50	70	70
Minnesota	718	795	734	809	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	52	59
									3	19	36	96
Mississippi	152	137	116	105	172	152	180	237	3	3	5	4
Missouri	609	676	669	629	—	—	—	—	22	27	35	39
Montana	55	41	45	39	65	74	73	13	13	5	10	10
Nebraska	231	239	259	235	—	—	—	—	44	48	66	52
Nevada	136	164	170	160	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
New Hampshire	171	134	150	140	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
New Jersey	1,152	944	1,277	1,359	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Mexico	212	239	201	279	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York	3,976	4,330	4,537	4,782	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	427	440	449	556	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
									38	35	21	28
North Dakota	70	111	66	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ohio	1,511	1,672	1,568	1,493	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	15
Oklahoma	490	515	477	485	—	—	—	—	29	26	48	53
Oregon	509	510	471	517	—	—	—	—	23	16	22	27
Pennsylvania	2,055	2,106	1,934	2,049	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
									67	144	132	145
Puerto Rico	429	439	434	305	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	136	167	168	153	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	304	308	253	274	—	—	—	—	8	7	12	10
South Dakota	13	16	20	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tennessee	520	529	659	554	67	73	54	59	3	—	3	3
									24	23	44	67
Texas	1,850	2,134	2,185	2,048	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utah	—	223	250	233	—	—	—	—	92	107	260	216
Vermont	97	96	105	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10
Virgin Islands	25	29	20	25	—	—	—	—	10	8	6	13
Virginia	797	821	828	714	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
									N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washington	752	829	834	829	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	64	78	76	75	143	113	153	124	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	203	222	179	209 ²	320	441	432	447	3	6	7	6
Wyoming	60	94	72	83	—	—	—	—	20	22	23	65
									7	8	9	8
Total	38,319	41,903	41,105	41,442	767	853	892	940	2,795	3,350	3,100	2,197

Total Admission to the Bar by Examination, by Diploma and on Motion.

1978 ... 41,662 1980 ... 45,097
 1979 ... 46,137 1981 ... 44,679

¹ Includes applicants from a previous examination who took their oath.

² Includes successful applicants, 1979 WBE (1); 1980 WBE (8); 1981 WBE (200).