

1985 Bar Examination Statistics

PREFATORY NOTE

The National Conference leaves the interpretation of the following statistics to the reader.

One cautionary note, however, is in order.

The number of persons added to the ranks of the legal profession continues to be of special interest. When seeking to determine the increase or decrease in the number of those admitted to practice nationwide, the reader must keep in mind that one may seek admission to more than one jurisdiction in a given year.

To date, the National Conference has not made an attempt to determine the actual number of persons admitted to practice in the United States each year.

Prepared by the Office of Testing,
Research and Development

Persons Taking and Passing the 1985 Bar Examination

State	1985 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Total Percent Passing	Total from ABA Approved Law Schools	Total by Law Office Study	Total from Unaccre- dited Law Schools
Alabama ¹	February	184	77	41.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	379	267	70.4	563	344	61.1	292	N/A	52
Alaska	February	135	96	71.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	142	98	69.0	277	194	70.0	—	—	—
Arizona	February	338	214	63.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	610	405	66.3	948	619	65.2	618	—	1
Arkansas ²	February	80	67	83.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	178	144	80.9	258	211	81.7	211	—	—
California ³	February	4,689	1,555	33.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	7,668	3,484	45.4	12,357	5,039	40.8	3,796	3	60
Colorado	February	330	260	78.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	627	516	82.3	957	776	81.1	768	—	2
Connecticut	February	353	243	68.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	901	692	76.8	1,254	935	74.6	935	N/A	N/A
Delaware	February	No February Exam			—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	131	87	66.4	131	87	66.4	87	—	—
District of Columbia	February	335	123	36.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	413	244	59.0	748	367	47.8	748	N/A	N/A
Florida	February	1,087	760	69.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,973	1,457	73.9	3,060	2,217	72.5	2,216	—	1

Persons Taking and Passing the 1985 Bar Examination (continued)

State	1985 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Total Percent Passing	Total from ABA Approved Law Schools	Total by Law Office Study	Total from Unaccre- dited Law Schools
Georgia	February	895	626	69.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	658	407	61.8	1,553	1,033	66.5	909	—	124
Guam	February	21	19	90.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	3	2	66.7	24	21	87.5	21	—	1
Hawaii	February	122	96	78.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	212	183	86.3	334	279	86.1	272	—	7
Idaho	February	48	43	89.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	135	117	86.7	183	160	87.4	160	—	—
Illinois	February	929	829	89.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,170	1,956	90.1	3,099	2,785	89.9	—	—	—
Indiana	February	269	217	80.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	387	318	82.2	656	535	81.6	512	23	—
Iowa	January	111	85	76.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	June	258	198	76.7	369	283	76.7	283	—	—
Kansas	February	106	87	82.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	260	231	88.9	366	318	86.9	318	—	—
Kentucky	February	96	74	77.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	347	283	81.6	443	357	80.6	357	—	—
Louisiana ³	February	249	174	79.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	657	469	71.3	906	643	71.0	902	—	4
Maine	February	74	62	83.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	164	143	87.2	238	205	86.1	205	—	—
Maryland	February	527	330	62.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,220	704	57.7	1,747	1,034	59.2	1,029	5	—
Massachusetts	February	596	369	61.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,867	1,546	82.8	2,463	1,915	77.8	—	—	—
Michigan	February	624	504	80.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,021	755	73.9	1,645	1,259	76.5	1,259	—	—
Minnesota	February	243	198	81.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	677	559	82.6	920	757	82.3	757	—	—
Mississippi ³	February	71	62	87.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	160	133	83.1	231	195	84.4	193	2	—
Missouri	February	241	192	79.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	688	589	85.6	929	781	84.0	781	—	—
Montana	February	38	21	55.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	125	108	86.4	163	129	79.6	—	—	—
Nebraska	February	61	38	62.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	175	156	89.1	236	194	82.2	194	—	—
Nevada ³	February	No February Exam			—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	237	184	77.6	237	184	77.6	169	—	15
New Hampshire	February	71	52	73.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	163	122	74.8	234	174	74.3	174	—	—
New Jersey	February	1,174	794	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,607	1,945	74.6	3,781	2,739	72.4	2,739	—	—
New Mexico	February	91	63	69.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	208	149	71.6	299	212	70.9	212	—	—
New York	February	2,414	1,129	46.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	6,498	4,558	70.1	8,912	5,687	63.8	—	—	—
North Carolina	February	228	108	47.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	615	378	61.5	843	486	57.7	486	—	—
North Dakota	February	12	10	83.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	89	75	84.3	101	85	84.1	85	—	—
Ohio	February	497	358	72.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,253	1,085	86.6	1,750	1,443	82.5	1,443	—	—

Persons Taking and Passing the 1985 Bar Examination (continued)

State	1985 Adminis- tration	Number Taking	Number Passing	Percent Passing	Total Taking	Total Passing	Total Percent Passing	Total from ABA Approved Law Schools	Total by Law Office Study	Total from Unaccre- dited Law Schools
Oklahoma	February	201	147	73.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	458	395	86.2	659	542	82.2	542	—	—
Oregon	February	206	126	61.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	415	305	73.4	621	431	69.4	431	—	—
Pennsylvania	February	882	592	67.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,522	2,098	83.2	3,404	2,690	79.0	2,690	—	—
Puerto Rico	March	267	86	32.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	September	503	167	33.2	770	253	32.9	253	—	—
Rhode Island	February	55	44	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	136	114	83.8	191	158	82.7	157	1	—
Saipan	February	9	7	77.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	11	9	81.9	20	16	80.0	—	—	—
South Carolina	February	87	64	73.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	266	228	85.8	353	292	82.7	292	—	—
South Dakota	February	41	33	80.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	56	45	80.3	97	78	80.4	78	—	—
Tennessee	February	202	113	55.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	489	373	76.3	691	486	70.3	425	61	—
Texas	February	1,195	807	67.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,254	1,592	70.6	3,449	2,399	69.6	2,399	—	—
Utah	February	57	51	89.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	203	174	85.7	260	225	87.6	260	—	—
Vermont	February	47	20	42.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	99	57	57.5	146	77	52.7	75	2	—
Virginia	February	371	200	53.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	921	703	76.3	1,292	903	69.9	889	11	3
Washington	February	398	245	61.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	865	408	47.1	1,263	653	51.7	653	—	—
West Virginia	February	59	37	62.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	57	41	71.9	116	78	67.2	77	—	1
Wisconsin	February	No February Exam		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	227	193	85.0	227	193	85.0	199	—	—
Wyoming	February	30	22	73.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	57	47	82.4	87	69	79.3	69	—	—
Total		66,861	44,225	66.0	66,861	44,225	66.0	32,620	2,171	271

1. Number Taking (column 2): Both numbers are certified; all have passed the MPRE exam.
2. Total from ABA Approved Schools (column 8): Arkansas does not keep records.
3. Total from Unaccredited Law Schools (column 10):
 - California: Schools neither ABA-approved nor accredited by CBE.
 - Louisiana: Includes foreign-trained applicants who received the Certificate of Equivalency.
 - Mississippi: Includes in-state school.
 - Nevada: Includes not admitted applicants.

First-Timers and Repeaters in 1985

State	1985 Administration	First-Timers		Repeaters	
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing
Alabama	February	101	64.0	83	13.0
	July	337	77.0	42	21.0
Alaska	February	92	81.0	43	49.0
	July	119	77.0	23	26.0
Arizona	February	154	65.0	184	62.0
	July	513	71.0	97	42.0
Arkansas	February	52	96.2	28	60.7
	July	164	84.8	14	35.7
California	February	1,285	47.9	3,404	27.6
	July	4,906	57.4	2,762	24.2
Colorado	February	203	76.0	127	60.0
	July	551	87.0	74	43.0
Connecticut	February	220	78.0	133	54.0
	July	810	81.0	91	40.0
Delaware ¹	February	No February Exam			
	July	94	80.0	25	48.0
District of Columbia	February	64	64.0	232	26.2
	July	220	82.2	165	25.4
Florida	February	764	80.2	323	45.5
	July	1,732	79.7	241	31.9
Georgia	February	629	86.9	266	29.6
	July	441	80.4	217	24.4
Guam	February	20	95.0	1	100.0
	July	2	100.0	1	0.0
Hawaii	February	104	88.0	8	50.0
	July	198	89.0	14	42.0
Idaho	February	39	95.0	9	67.0
	July	131	88.0	4	25.0
Illinois	February	634	94.0	284	77.0
	July	2,066	92.0	104	47.0
Iowa	January	68	75.0	43	79.0
	June	238	80.0	20	40.0
Kansas	February	77	88.3	29	65.5
	July	241	89.0	19	84.2
Kentucky	February	53	86.0	43	65.0
	July	324	84.0	19	47.0
Louisiana	February	123	71.0	126	69.0
	July	578	75.0	79	48.0
Maine	February	56	84.0	18	83.3
	July	154	90.0	10	50.0
Maryland	February	304	74.0	223	47.1
	July	1,053	64.1	167	17.4
Massachusetts	February	292	76.0	304	48.3
	July	1,718	86.6	149	38.2
Michigan	February	412	87.0	212	68.0
	July	897	80.0	124	27.0
Minnesota	February	142	86.6	101	74.3
	July	624	86.4	53	37.7
Mississippi	February	60	91.7	11	63.6
	July	155	84.5	5	40.0
Missouri	February	114	72.0	127	27.0
	July	635	88.0	53	52.0
Montana	February	26	65.0	12	33.0
	July	112	93.0	13	31.0
Nebraska	February	31	65.0	30	60.0
	July	160	92.0	15	60.0
Nevada	February	No February Exam			
	July	220	78.1	17	70.5
New Hampshire	February	49	78.0	22	64.0
	July	155	77.4	8	25.0
New Jersey	February	622	72.0	552	63.0
	July	2,329	79.0	278	41.0

First-Timers and Repeaters in 1985 (continued)

State	1985 Administration	First-Timers		Repeaters	
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing
New Mexico	February	61	80.0	30	46.0
	July	179	78.0	29	27.0
New York	February	838	55.0	1,576	42.0
	July	5,325	77.0	1,173	38.0
North Carolina	February	97	63.9	131	35.1
	July	502	69.3	113	26.5
North Dakota	February	10	90.0	2	50.0
	July	89	84.0	0	—
Ohio	February	369	82.9	128	40.6
	July	1,147	90.5	106	44.3
Oklahoma	February	103	77.0	98	68.0
	July	405	90.0	53	52.0
Oregon	February	126	65.0	80	55.0
	July	359	78.0	56	46.0
Pennsylvania	February	February Not Available			
	July	July Not Available			
Puerto Rico	March	88	33.0	179	31.8
	September	274	45.6	229	18.3
Rhode Island	February	32	72.0	23	87.0
	July	126	87.0	10	50.0
Saipan	February	9	77.0	0	—
	July	10	90.0	1	0.0
South Carolina	February	58	79.0	29	62.0
	July	249	87.0	17	71.0
South Dakota	February	37	78.0	4	50.0
	July	50	82.0	6	66.7
Tennessee	February	88	73.0	114	57.0
	July	420	81.0	69	55.0
Texas	February	698	72.0	497	60.9
	July	1,906	60.1	348	42.2
Utah	February	44	95.5	13	84.6
	July	196	87.2	7	42.9
Vermont	February	18	33.3	29	48.2
	July	79	65.8	20	25.0
Virginia	February	226	64.0	145	40.0
	July	788	81.0	133	48.0
Washington	February	245	N/A	153	N/A
	July	731	N/A	134	N/A
West Virginia	February	50	62.0	9	67.0
	July	41	83.0	16	44.0
Wisconsin	February	No February Exam			
	July	207	89.0	20	45.0
Wyoming	February	21	71.0	9	55.0
	July	50	80.0	7	86.0
Totals		45,018		17,462	

1. *First-Timers Taking*: (column 2): Includes some who failed the MPRE exam.

Admission to Bar by States—1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985

State	Admission by Examination				Admission by Diploma				Admission on Motion			
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1982	1983	1984	1985	1982	1983	1984	1985
Alabama	486	378	435	344	—	—	—	—	1	2	N/A	—
Alaska	177	182	165	194	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	22
Arizona	510	518	521	619	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	215	242	199	258	—	—	—	—	14	8	11	11
California ¹	5,116	5,105	4,276	5,039	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colorado	863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	—	—	—
Connecticut ¹	682	748	818	935	—	—	—	N/A	30	60	75	100
Delaware	79	71	74	131	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia ¹	1,548	1,774	686	402	—	—	—	N/A	443	408	974	2,129
Florida	1,775	2,425	2,273	2,194	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia	894	861	1,002	1,033	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	—	12	11	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	212	243	266	287	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Idaho ¹	155	153	144	153	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Illinois	2,311	2,382	2,420	2,785	—	—	—	—	41	42	46	40
Indiana	526	563	514	544	—	—	—	—	36	20	13	13
Iowa	314	344	288	283	—	—	—	—	20	9	19	14
Kansas	282	318	348	366	—	—	—	—	21	34	28	33
Kentucky	379	386	423	357	—	—	—	—	33	33	35	37
Louisiana	689	714	659	906	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	170	167	176	205	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	1,029	928	586	1,935	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	1,585	1,641	1,738	1,915	—	—	—	—	58	81	119	150
Michigan	1,202	1,113	1,120	1,259	—	—	—	—	—	60	36	57
Minnesota	752	745	795	738	—	—	—	—	72	105	88	104
Mississippi	96	64	73	195	146	130	118	N/A	6	3	8	8
Missouri	721	728	687	778	—	—	—	—	49	62	52	74
Montana	54	49	129	109	73	70	—	—	12	—	N/A	9
Nebraska	205	202	195	194	—	—	—	—	115	143	117	100
Nevada	163	173	154	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	178	163	165	170	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey ¹	1,475	2,068	N/A	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
New Mexico	244	263	228	212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York ¹	5,041	5,713	N/A	5,553	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	590
North Carolina ¹	448	506	517	475	—	—	—	—	30	31	42	36
North Dakota	83	111	97	84	—	—	—	—	9	12	10	9
Ohio	1,539	1,660	1,673	1,443	—	—	—	—	51	27	36	65
Oklahoma	562	520	451	541	—	—	—	—	31	25	22	15
Oregon	497	410	456	431	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	2,053	2,047	3,034	2,690	—	—	—	—	90	75	106	112
Puerto Rico	190	257	175	253	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	135	187	160	147	—	—	—	—	4	16	8	8
Saipan	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	296	298	263	253	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
South Dakota	20	26	19	78	45	11	—	2	4	11	—	—
Tennessee	406	467	436	486	—	—	—	—	30	34	33	85
Texas	2,451	2,235	2,493	2,350	—	—	—	—	321	227	252	—
Utah	248	263	251	279	—	—	—	—	8	15	—	—
Vermont	76	61	107	77	—	—	—	—	N/A	22	21	27
Virgin Islands	25	N/A	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	952	683	934	1,014	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Washington	812	889	976	653	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	62	66	93	77	134	153	119	122	4	9	4	9
Wisconsin	194	180	183	201	422	431	442	425	85	100	141	193
Wyoming	74	73	60	69	—	—	—	—	14	11	3	6
Total	41,251	42,375	33,986	36,348	820	795	679	549	1,716	1,685	2,299	3,471

1. Admission by Examination (column 4):

California: Close estimate.

Connecticut: Includes some who have not yet passed the MPRE exam.

District of Columbia: Includes some applicants carried over from 1984.

Idaho: Number who have actually been admitted to ISB.

New Jersey: Includes only applicants who have passed the Skills and Methods Course.

New York: Admission within jurisdiction of NYS Supreme Court.

North Carolina: Includes only those who have passed bar exam and MPRE.

Multistate Bar Examination Statistics

Jurisdictions Using the Multistate Bar Examination: July 1985

Alabama	Idaho	Nebraska	Rhode Island
Alaska	Illinois	Nevada	South Carolina
Arizona	Kansas	New Hampshire	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey	Tennessee
California	Maine	New Mexico	Texas
Colorado	Maryland	New York	Utah
Connecticut	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Vermont
Delaware	Michigan	North Dakota	Virgin Islands
District of Columbia	Minnesota	Ohio	Virginia
Florida	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Georgia	Missouri	Oregon	Wisconsin
Hawaii	Montana	Pennsylvania	Wyoming

States not participating in the program are: Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana and Washington.

MBE Summary Statistics

February 1985

	<i>Total Scale</i>	<i>Total Raw</i>	<i>Constitutional Law</i>	<i>Contracts</i>	<i>Criminal Law</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>Real Property</i>	<i>Torts</i>
Applicants	18,303	18,303	18,303	18,303	18,303	18,303	18,303	18,303
Mean	136.4	126.2	21.4	25.1	19.1	17.6	18.6	24.4
Standard Deviation	15.9	17.1	3.6	4.3	3.2	3.3	3.7	4.4
Maximum	189	182	30	38	30	29	29	39
Minimum	68	53	6	0	6	3	0	7
Median	137	127	22.2	25.8	19.6	18.1	19.3	25

July 1985

	<i>Total Scale</i>	<i>Total Raw</i>	<i>Constitutional Law</i>	<i>Contracts</i>	<i>Criminal Law</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>Real Property</i>	<i>Torts</i>
Applicants	39,149	39,149	39,149	39,149	39,149	39,149	39,149	39,149
Mean	140.6	127.9	20.2	23.5	20.7	18.1	18.5	26.9
Standard Deviation	15.5	16.7	3.5	4.3	3.4	3.3	3.7	4.2
Maximum	191	182	30	39	30	30	29	40
Minimum	66	47	3	0	4	3	0	6
Median	142.2	129.2	20.2	24.1	21.4	18.8	19.3	27.6

Number of Applicants Taking the MBE

(includes Guam and Saipan)

	<u>February</u> <u>Applicants</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Jurisdictions</u>	<u>July</u> <u>Applicants</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Jurisdictions</u>	<u>Total Number</u> <u>Applicants</u>
1972	4,955	19	11,672	26	16,627
1973	6,182	22	16,826	35	23,008
1974	9,316	31	23,728	41	33,044
1975	10,963	34	24,835	43	35,798
1976	12,610	37	28,381	44	40,991
1977	13,738	40	28,608	44	42,346
1978	13,715	36	29,171	44	42,886
1979	15,341	38	34,818	46	50,159
1980	16,948	42	36,368	47	53,316
1981	17,289	44	36,846	50	54,135
1982	18,150	46	36,995	50	55,145
1983	17,964	46	38,034	50	55,998
1984	16,938	49	38,511	50	55,449
1985	18,303	47	39,149	50	57,452

National Mean Scaled Score

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
February	135.1	136.0	134.5	135.3	135.6	135.4	134.3	135.8	134.8	134.2	135.1	136.4
July	141.3	143.5	142.4	140.7	141.4	141.0	140.6	140.8	139.7	141.5	139.2	140.6

Points Added to a Raw MBE Score to Achieve a Scaled MBE Score of 130

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
February	4	7	7	5	12	9	8	10	12	7	10	10
July	8	11	11	9	8	10	14	8	9	14	11	13

For example, in February 1974 four points were added to a raw score of 126 to result in a scaled score of 130. In February 1975, seven points were added to a raw score of 123 to result in a scaled score of 130.