

1986 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 1986 Bar Examination

State	1986 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	Other	
Alabama	February	191	80	41.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	456	275	60.3	647	355	54.9	288	—	67	—	
Alaska	February	102	70	68.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	106	66	62.3	208	136	65.4	136	—	—	—	
Arizona	February	337	213	63.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	625	405	64.8	962	618	64.2	614	—	4	—	
Arkansas	February	104	89	85.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	167	125	74.9	271	214	79.0	214	—	—	—	
California	February	4,734	1,332	28.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	7,809	3,466	44.4	12,543	4,798	38.3	3,528	9	580	681*	
Colorado	February	265	181	68.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	632	486	76.9	897	667	74.4	667	—	—	—	
Connecticut	February	400	211	52.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	1,180	889	75.3	1,580	1,100	69.6	1,100	—	—	—	
Delaware	February	No February Examination					—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	120	87	72.5	120	87	72.5	87	—	—	—	
District of Columbia	February	221	57	25.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	276	153	55.4	497	210	42.2	210	—	—	—	
Florida	February	1,167	746	63.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	July	1,960	1,429	72.9	3,127	2,175	69.6	2,175	—	—	—	

Persons Taking and Passing the 1986 Bar Examination (continued)

State	1986 Administration	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 Unaccredited Law Schools	Other
Georgia	February	906	624	68.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	668	427	63.9	1,574	1,051	66.8	982	—	—	—
Guam	February	13	13	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	69	—
	July	6	5	83.3	19	18	94.7	18	—	—	—
Hawaii	February	123	91	74.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	232	162	69.8	355	253	71.3	250	—	—	—
Idaho	February	53	48	90.6	—	—	—	—	—	3	1**
	July	103	94	91.3	156	142	91.0	142	—	—	—
Illinois	February	819	660	80.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,158	1,836	85.1	2,977	2,496	83.8	2,496	—	—	—
Indiana	February	273	206	75.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	346	299	86.4	619	505	81.6	487	—	—	—
Iowa	January	84	71	84.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	18†
	June	229	180	78.6	313	251	80.2	251	—	—	—
Kansas	February	125	109	87.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	262	237	90.5	387	346	89.4	346	—	—	—
Kentucky	February	113	79	69.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	315	260	82.5	428	339	79.8	339	—	—	—
Louisiana	February	263	175	66.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	677	472	69.7	940	647	68.8	—	—	—	—
Maine	February	72	55	76.4	—	—	—	—	—	Not Available	—
	July	210	164	78.1	282	219	77.7	219	—	—	—
Maryland	February	663	376	56.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,151	668	58	1,814	1,044	57.6	1,040	—	4	113‡
Massachusetts	February	537	330	61.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,865	1,491	80.0	2,402	1,821	75.8	1,821	—	—	—
Michigan	February	570	349	61.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,039	763	73.4	1,609	1,112	69.1	1,112	—	—	—
Minnesota	February	222	160	72.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	656	562	85.7	878	722	82.2	722	—	—	—
Mississippi	February	89	70	78.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	155	135	87.1	244	205	84.0	205	—	—	—
Missouri	February	246	182	74.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	704	623	88.5	950	805	84.7	805	—	—	—
Montana	February	35	20	57.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	119	85	71.4	154	105	68.2	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	February	30	22	73.3	—	—	—	—	—	Not Available	—
	July	188	165	87.8	218	187	85.8	187	—	—	—
Nevada	February	No February Examination			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	264	208	78.8	264	208	78.8	183	—	25	—
New Hampshire	February	123	81	65.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	195	134	68.7	318	215	67.6	215	—	—	—
New Jersey	February	1,101	685	62.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,781	2,122	76.0	3,882	2,807	72.5	2,807	—	—	—
New Mexico	February	106	74	69.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	223	184	82.5	329	258	78.4	258	—	—	—
New York	February	2,240	915	40.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	6,516	4,344	66.7	8,756	5,259	60.1	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	February	261	133	51.0	—	—	—	—	—	Not Available	—
	July	557	443	79.5	818	576	70.4	576	—	—	—
North Dakota	February	18	10	55.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	70	61	87.1	88	71	80.7	71	—	—	—
Ohio	February	447	332	74.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,268	1,082	85.3	1,715	1,414	82.5	1,414	—	—	—

Persons Taking and Passing the 1986 Bar Examination (continued)

State	1986 Administration	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 Unaccredited Law Schools	Other
Oklahoma	February	155	122	78.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	371	312	84.1	526	434	82.5	434	—	—	—
Oregon	February	179	129	72.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	377	249	66.1	556	378	68.0	378	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	February	891	589	66.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,768	2,252	81.4	3,659	2,841	77.6	2,841	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	March	355	149	42.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	September	440	181	41.1	795	330	41.5	—	Not Available		—
Rhode Island	February	54	42	77.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	143	119	83.2	197	161	81.7	161	—	—	—
Saipan	February	8	6	75.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	11	1	9.1	19	7	36.8	7	—	—	—
South Carolina	February	125	101	80.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	266	218	82.0	391	319	81.6	319	—	—	—
South Dakota	February	29	23	79.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	42	34	81.0	71	57	80.3	57	—	—	—
Tennessee	February	198	104	52.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	492	342	69.5	690	446	64.6	397	—	49	—
Texas	February	1,214	784	64.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	2,236	1,571	70.3	3,450	2,355	68.3	3,450	—	—	—
Utah	February	66	49	74.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	195	162	83.1	261	211	80.8	211	—	—	—
Vermont	February	68	33	48.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	110	52	47.3	178	85	47.8	81	4	—	—
Virgin Islands	February	No February Examination			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	33	16	48.5	33	16	48.5	16	—	—	—
Virginia	February	392	186	47.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	1,071	850	79.4	1,463	1,036	70.8	1,029	7	—	—
Washington	February	559	431	77.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	815	550	67.5	1,374	981	71.4	971	10	—	—
West Virginia	February	48	29	60.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	58	46	79.3	106	75	70.8	73	—	2	—
Wisconsin	February	No February Examination			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	188	159	84.6	188	159	84.6	159	—	—	—
Wyoming	February	23	17	73.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July	71	57	80.3	94	74	78.7	73	—	—	—
Total		67,392	43,401	64.4	67,392	43,401	64.4	36,622	30	803	813

*Not allocated to a specific law school.

**Not law school graduate.

†State approved

‡Attorney exam (practice in another jurisdiction).

ERRATA

An error was made in the 1985 Statistics. It was reported that Indiana admitted 23 persons and Tennessee admitted 61 persons as a result of Law Office Study. In fact, Indiana admitted 23 persons and Tennessee admitted 61 persons from Unaccredited Law Schools. Therefore, the total number of persons admitted in 1985 as a result of Law Office Study was 24.

First-Timers and Repeaters in 1986

State	1986 Administration	First-Timers		Repeaters	
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing
Alabama	February	117	54.0	74	26.0
	July	366	67.0	90	31.0
Alaska	February	56	78.6	46	58.7
	July	87	67.0	19	42.0
Arizona	February	175	68.0	162	42.0
	July	525	68.8	100	44.0
Arkansas	February	78	91.0	26	69.2
	July	155	79.4	12	16.7
California	February	1,260	43.7	3,474	22.5
	July	4,790	59.2	3,019	20.9
Colorado	February	174	75.0	91	51.0
	July	539	83.0	93	37.0
Connecticut	February	Not Available			
	July	Not Available			
Delaware	February	No February Examination			
	July	93	82.0	27	37.0
District of Columbia	February	74	43.2	147	13.6
	July	124	78.2	115	28.7
Florida	February	822	73.4	345	41.5
	July	1,697	79.3	263	31.9
Georgia	February	687	83.9	219	21.4
	July	467	79.0	201	28.8
Guam	February	12	100.0	1	100.0
	July	5	100.0	1	0.0
Hawaii	February	98	89.1	25	36.0
	July	208	74.0	27	29.6
Idaho	February	48	93.7	5	80.0
	July	98	92.9	5	40.0
Illinois	February	632	87.0	187	60.0
	July	2,020	88.0	138	43.0
Indiana	February	216	81.5	57	52.6
	July	300	88.0	46	76.1
Iowa	January	51	94.0	33	70.0
	June	217	75.0	12	58.0
Kansas	February	101	92.1	24	62.5
	July	245	92.3	17	64.7
Kentucky	February	68	82.0	45	53.0
	July	300	83.0	15	73.0
Louisiana	February	104	64.4	159	67.9
	July	586	72.6	91	50.5
Maine	February	61	80.3	11	55.0
	July	197	78.7	13	69.0
Maryland	February	313	62.0	350	52.0
	July	944	64.3	207	29.5
Massachusetts	February	304	73.4	233	45.9
	July	1,684	84.0	181	42.0
Michigan	February	358	75.0	212	39.0
	July	864	80.0	175	39.0
Minnesota	February	132	78.8	90	62.2
	July	606	88.0	50	58.0
Mississippi	February	69	87.0	20	50.0
	July	142	90.1	13	53.8
Missouri	February	155	68.0	91	32.0
	July	656	90.0	48	60.0
Montana	February	Not Available			
	July	Not Available			

First-Timers and Repeaters in 1986 (continued)

State	1985 Administration	First-Timers		Repeaters	
		Taking	Percent Passing	Taking	Percent Passing
Nebraska	February	20	80.0	10	60.0
	July	178	88.0	10	90.0
Nevada	February	No February Examination			
	July	223	79.8	41	73.1
New Hampshire	February	79	80.0	44	41.0
	July	162	75.0	33	36.0
New Jersey	February	655	71.0	446	50.0
	July	2501	79.0	280	50.0
New Mexico	February	67	82.0	39	46.0
	July	199	87.0	24	46.0
New York	February	793	51.7	1,447	34.9
	July	5,317	73.4	1,199	36.9
North Carolina	February	86	63.0	175	45.0
	July	453	86.0	104	52.0
North Dakota	February	11	63.0	7	42.0
	July	65	86.0	5	100.0
Ohio	February	300	79.6	147	22.9
	July	1,145	88.4	123	44.7
Oklahoma	February	105	88.0	50	58.0
	July	339	89.0	32	31.0
Oregon	February	99	79.0	80	62.0
	July	328	70.0	49	39.0
Pennsylvania	February	Not Available			
	July	Not Available			
Puerto Rico	March	85	37.6	270	43.0
	September	314	50.3	126	18.0
Rhode Island	February	37	86.5	17	52.9
	July	135	83.7	8	75.0
Saipan	February	8	75.0	0	0.0
	July	9	11.0	2	0.0
South Carolina	February	73	85.0	52	75.0
	July	256	82.0	10	70.0
South Dakota	February	21	85.0	8	62.5
	July	36	86.0	6	50.0
Tennessee	February	96	69.0	102	37.0
	July	422	74.0	70	43.0
Texas	February	632	72.3	582	56.2
	July	1,797	76.2	439	46.0
Utah	February	43	79.1	23	65.2
	July	183	83.1	12	83.0
Vermont	February	31	64.5	37	35.1
	July	85	56.4	25	16.0
Virgin Islands	February	No February Examination			
	July	31	51.6	2	0
Virginia	February	227	61.0	165	29.0
	July	931	83.0	140	55.0
Washington	February	266	N/A	293	N/A
	July	697	N/A	118	N/A
West Virginia	February	34	68.0	14	43.0
	July	48	85.0	10	60.0
Wisconsin	February	No February Examination			
	July	173	86.0	15	67.0
Wyoming	February	16	70.0	7	30.0
	July	63	89.0	8	11.0
		43,954	76.5	1,801	46.4

Admission to Bar by States—1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986

State	Admission by Examination				Admission by Diploma				Admission on Motion			
	1983	1984	1985	1986	1983	1984	1985	1986	1983	1984	1985	1986
Alabama	378	435	344	368	—	—	—	—	2	N/A	—	—
Alaska	182	165	194	136	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	22	—
Arizona	518	521	619	618	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	242	199	258	214	—	—	—	—	8	11	11	—
California	5,105	4,276	5,039	4,798	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Connecticut	748	818	935	1,100	—	—	N/A	—	60	75	100	100
Delaware	71	74	131	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	1,774	686	402	207	—	—	N/A	—	408	974	2,129	1,541
Florida	2,425	2,273	2,194	2,368	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia	861	1,002	1,033	1,051	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	12	11	22	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	243	266	287	261	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Idaho	153	144	153	139	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Illinois	2,382	2,420	2,785	2,496	—	—	—	—	42	46	40	53
Indiana	563	514	544	471	—	—	—	—	20	13	13	44
Iowa	344	288	283	251	—	—	—	—	9	19	14	17
Kansas	318	348	366	346	—	—	—	—	34	28	33	17
Kentucky	386	423	357	339	—	—	—	—	33	35	37	35
Louisiana	714	659	906	647	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	167	176	205	219	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	928	586	1,935	1,215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	1,641	1,738	1,915	1,821	—	—	—	—	81	119	150	74
Michigan	1,113	1,120	1,259	1,112	—	—	—	—	60	36	57	100
Minnesota	745	795	738	735	—	—	—	—	105	88	104	100
Mississippi	64	73	195	205	130	118	N/A	—	3	8	8	4*
Missouri	728	687	778	792	—	—	—	—	62	52	74	49
Montana	49	129	109	94	70	—	—	—	—	N/A	9	—
Nebraska	202	195	194	187	—	—	—	—	143	117	100	38
Nevada	173	154	169	184	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	163	165	170	207	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	2,068	N/A	+2,000	2,619	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
New Mexico	263	228	212	258	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York	5,713	N/A	5,553	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	590	—
North Carolina	506	517	475	572	—	—	—	—	31	42	36	47
North Dakota	111	97	84	69	—	—	—	—	12	10	9	4
Ohio	1,660	1,673	1,443	1,414	—	—	—	—	27	36	65	52
Oklahoma	520	451	541	427	—	—	—	—	25	22	15	19
Oregon	410	456	431	375	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	2,047	3,034	2,690	2,841	—	—	—	—	75	106	112	134
Puerto Rico	257	175	253	330	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	187	160	147	193	—	—	—	—	16	8	8	12
Saipan	—	—	16	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	298	263	253	324	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	26	19	78	15	11	—	2	42	11	—	—	N/A
Tennessee	467	436	486	446	—	—	—	—	34	33	85	55
Texas	2,235	2,493	2,350	2,355	—	—	—	—	227	252	—	—
Utah	263	251	279	234	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Vermont	61	107	77	65	—	—	—	—	22	21	27	17
Virgin Islands	N/A	40	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	683	934	1,014	1,036	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Washington	889	976	653	981	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	66	93	77	74	153	119	122	103	9	4	9	24
Wisconsin	180	183	201	154	431	442	425	416	100	141	193	153
Wyoming	73	60	69	71	—	—	—	—	11	3	6	4
Total	42,375	33,986	36,348	37,595	795	679	549	561	1,685	2,299	3,471	2,694

Multistate Bar Examination Statistics

Jurisdictions Using the Multistate Bar Examination: July 1986

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 1986

	Total Scale	Total Raw	Constitutional Law	Contracts	Criminal Law	Evidence	Real Property	Torts
Applicants	17,824	17,824	17,824	17,824	17,824	17,824	17,824	17,824
Mean	135.6	117.6	18.6	21.9	18.5	17.3	16.6	24.7
Standard Deviation	15.3	17.8	4.0	4.6	3.4	3.3	3.9	4.4
Maximum	187	177	30	37	29	29	29	39
Minimum	57	26	3	2	3	4	1	6
Median	136	118	19.2	22.4	19.2	17.8	17.2	25.2

July 1986

	Total Scale	Total Raw	Constitutional Law	Contracts	Criminal Law	Evidence	Real Property	Torts
Applicants	39,774	39,774	39,774	39,774	39,774	39,774	39,774	39,774
Mean	140.3	131.5	21.9	24.5	19.0	19.6	19.1	27.4
Standard Deviation	15.5	17.3	3.4	4.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.0
Maximum	187	184	30	38	30	30	30	40
Minimum	67	50	5	5	3	4	3	7
Median	141.9	132.9	22.7	25.3	19.7	20.3	19.8	28.1

Number of Applicants Taking the MBE

(includes Guam and Saipan)

	<u>February Applicants</u>	<u>Number of Jurisdictions</u>	<u>July Applicants</u>	<u>Number of Jurisdictions</u>	<u>Total Number 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
1986	17,825	48	39,774	50	57,599

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>	<u>1986</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	135.5
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	140.3

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>	<u>1986</u>
February	4	7	7	5	12	9	8	10	12	7	10	10	19
July	8	11	11	9	8	10	14	8	9	14	11	13	9

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.

