

February 2021 North Carolina Bar Examination to be administered remotely

The National Conference of Bar Examiners recently announced that it will make full set of examination materials (two MPTs, six MEEs, and 200 MBE questions) available for jurisdictions to use to administer the February 2021 Uniform Bar Examination (“UBE”) either in-person or as a remote examination. Jurisdictions must choose one of these modes of administration. Additionally, it will be up to each UBE jurisdiction whether that jurisdiction will accept transfer scores from UBE jurisdictions that administer the examination remotely.

Current reports indicate COVID-19 cases in majority of states in U.S. are rising. While the future trajectory of pandemic is uncertain, it is predicted that cases may continue to increase, and that pandemic may worsen over the next several months. While it is possible that conditions might permit an in-person UBE in February 2021, with coronavirus cases continuing to increase in North Carolina at record levels and the unknowable path the pandemic may take here in the coming months, there is a substantial risk that an in-person administration may have to be canceled. The Board feels this risk creates an unacceptable level of uncertainty for applicants and could result in significant stress and anxiety.

In an effort to ensure that applicants are afforded an opportunity to sit for the bar examination in North Carolina in February 2021 and to protect the health and safety of all involved, the Board has decided to administer the February 2021 North Carolina bar examination remotely. Additionally, North Carolina will accept transfer scores from UBE jurisdictions that administer the examination in-person or remotely in February 2021. Further details regarding the examination will be posted in the coming weeks.