

Definitions

Term	Definition	Also See
Applicant	Individual applying to sit for the bar examination.	Candidate Re-applicant Prior applicant
Candidate	Individual who has taken the bar examination.	Applicant Re-applicant Prior applicant
Character and Fitness Questionnaire	The extensive application required to assist a reviewing attorney in determining an applicant's character and fitness to practice law. Also referred to as an applicant's Character Statement.	
Committee on Character	Committee composed of attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court to make determinations as to the character and fitness of candidates to practice law in New Jersey	
Computer Based Testing (CBT)	The ability to answer the seven essay questions on a laptop computer instead of writing by hand. Registration with the laptop vendor and completion of all steps is required.	Laptop Program
Credit Check	Credit check performed by Committee on Character on each applicant to help assess financial responsibility.	
Driver's Abstract	A record of an individual's driving history. Several types are available. For this application process, a complete certified abstract is required.	
Employment Verification	A request to a current or former employer to verify certain employment information.	
Essay questions	Seven essay questions administered the day after the MBE questions. Four questions are administered in the AM session over three hours and three questions are administered in the PM session over two hours and fifteen minutes.	

Fingerprinting	Required of each applicant in order to conduct a criminal background check related to an applicant's character and fitness review.	
Laptop Program	The ability to answer the seven essay questions on a laptop computer instead of writing by hand. Registration with the laptop vendor and completion of all steps is required.	Computer Based Testing (CBT)
Law School Certificate	A form that must be signed and submitted to each law school attended by an applicant. The form indicates if an applicant has met the educational requirement of graduation from an American Bar Association accredited law school.	
Multistate Bar Exam (MBE)	The 200 question multiple choice portion of the examination given on the last Wednesday of February and July. This test is given in two three-hour AM and PM sessions.	
MBE State	The state in which an applicant will sit for the MBE. Pennsylvania requires applicants to take the MBE in Pennsylvania.	
MBE Score Transfer	If an applicant is taking the MBE in more than one state, the applicant must arrange for the transfer of the MBE score, either to or from New Jersey. Please note that Pennsylvania requires their applicants to sit for the MBE in Pennsylvania. New Jersey does not handle MBE transfers to another state; applicants must contact the National Conference of Bar Examiners to transfer an MBE score from New Jersey to another state.	
National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE)	The organization which provides the MBE portion of the examination, provides score transfers (in some states), administers the MPRE, and provides scaling services.	Ncbex.org
Oath/Oath Card	The document used to swear in a qualified candidate, who can then be	Roll of Attorneys

	added to the official Roll of Attorneys. The oath must be administered by an individual authorized to administer an oath. In New Jersey, a judge, attorney or notary public may administer the oath. The oath may be administered in another state by an individual authorized in that state to administer oaths.	
Phase I Grading	The initial reading of all essay responses.	
Phase II Grading	The re-reading of all applicants whose combined essay and MBE scores are 260 or greater and less than 272. Each essay is read by a different grader with no knowledge of the Phase I score.	
Phase III Grading	The re-reading of each essay whose Phase I and Phase II scores differ by more than one (1) point.	
Prior Applicant	An applicant who has taken a previous exam. A prior applicant must follow standard application deadlines.	Applicant Re-applicant
Re-applicant	An applicant who has taken the exam immediately preceding the exam to which s/he is applying. A re-applicant is subject to the re-application deadlines.	Applicant Prior Applicant
Reviewing Attorney	Committee on Character member assigned to review a candidate's file to make a determination on certification for admission.	
Roll of Attorneys	Applicants who have met all admission requirements and been sworn in as an attorney in the state of New Jersey are added to the Roll of Attorneys.	Oath/Oath Cards
Scaling	The process by which MBE and essay results are adjusted.	NCBE web site regarding scaling.
Supplemental Documentation	Documents specific to an applicant which are required to address issues raised by responses to the Character and Fitness Questionnaire.	

Swearing-in Ceremony	A ceremony conducted centrally and by some counties to swear in a group of qualified applicants at one time. Qualified applicants do not need to attend a ceremony and may be sworn in privately.	Oath/Oath Cards Roll of Attorneys
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