

New York State Board of Law Examiners

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PRESS RELEASE

The New York State Board of Law Examiners announced today that grading has been completed for the February 2026 New York State Bar Examination. Candidates received electronic notification of their examination results today.

The graduates of New York law schools outperformed their counterparts from out-of-state ABA-approved law schools. The passing rate for the 320 graduates of the New York law schools who took the bar examination in February 2026 for the first time was 78%, which was an increase of 1% from the February 2025 examination. The passing rate for the 307 graduates of out-of-state ABA-approved law schools who took the bar examination in February 2026 for the first time was 77%, which is an increase of 4% from last year.

The passing rate for the 627 graduates of all ABA-approved law schools, including graduates of New York law schools, who took the bar examination for the first time in February 2026 was 78%, an increase of 3% for this cohort from last year.

There were 131 participants in this year's Pro Bono Scholars Program, and 122 passed for a passing rate of 93%.

The Board examined a total of 3,855, including U. S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, first-time and repeat takers, during the February 2026 bar examination. Of those candidates, 1,567 passed for an overall passing rate of 41%, an increase of 2% from the overall passing

rate on the February 2025 examination. The passing rate for the 2,173 foreign-educated candidates who took the exam was 32%, an increase of 2% from last year. The foreign-educated candidates accounted for 56% of all exam takers, which is the highest percentage for this cohort the Board has examined on an administration of the bar examination. The passing rate for the 2,530 repeat takers who took the February 2026 bar examination was 30%, an increase of 3% from last year. Repeat takers accounted for 66% of all candidates who took the February 2026 examination.

Passing rates for various groups of candidates are presented on the chart below.

New York Bar Examination Pass Rates	February 2026
Pro Bono Scholars	93%
All ABA Graduates – First-Time Takers	78%
New York ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	78%
Out-of-State ABA Schools – First-Time Takers	77%
Foreign-Educated – First-Time Takers	44%
All First Time-Takers	60%
All ABA Graduates (first-time takers & repeaters)	51%
All Foreign-Educated (first-time takers & repeaters)	32%
All Candidates (first-time takers & repeaters)	41%
All Repeaters	30%

A list of the candidates passing the February 2026 bar examination will be available to the public on the Board's website at www.nybarexam.org after 9:00 AM ET on April 23, 2026. Each successful candidate, who also has completed the New York Law Course and taken and passed both the New York Law Exam and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination as required by the Rules of the New York State Court of Appeals, will be certified by the Board to the Appellate Division for admission to the bar. Each candidate must then appear before the Committee on Character and Fitness to be examined as to their character and fitness before being admitted to the bar.

The Board congratulates the candidates who were successful on the February 2026 bar examination.