

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Supreme Court to Adopt NextGen Bar Examination in 2027

PHOENIX – Beginning with the bar examination administered in July 2027, Arizona will adopt the NextGen bar examination, created by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). Arizona has administered the NCBE’s Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) since February of 2012. Applicants’ scores on the UBE are transferrable to other jurisdictions around the nation based on reciprocity agreements.

The July 2027 start date allows NCBE and participating jurisdictions a full year of administering the NextGen bar exam before the exam is administered in Arizona. Arizona law schools can begin preparing their programs for incoming law students who will be taking the NextGen exam in July of 2027. The NCBE will no longer offer the UBE in any jurisdiction after February 2028.

The current UBE is a three-part bar exam consisting of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), a 200-question multiple choice exam; the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), consisting of six essay questions; and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), consisting of two long-form, scenario-based questions. The NextGen bar exam is designed to take less time while testing a wider variety of knowledge through additional testing methods. The new exam will contain multiple-choice questions, similar to the current MBE; integrated question sets, featuring a combination of short-answer and multiple-choice questions in response to a common fact scenario; and performance tasks, similar to those in the current MPT portion of the exam, where relevant facts and law will be included within the materials.

As part of creating a bar exam, the NCBE gathers teams of law professors, law school deans, practicing attorneys, and judges from jurisdictions throughout the United States to draft the questions and scenarios. Examination parameters for standard and accommodated testers are carried out by the Arizona Supreme Court’s Committee on Examinations. The examination is coordinated and proctored by the Court’s Certification and Licensing Division and the examinations are administered on the same days nationally in February and July of each year. Applicants for admission to the practice of law in Arizona must also successfully complete a separate course on Arizona law and complete a character and fitness review.

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