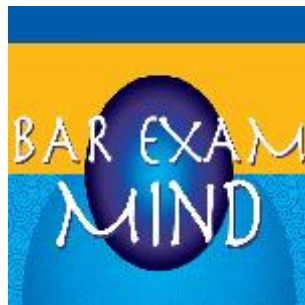
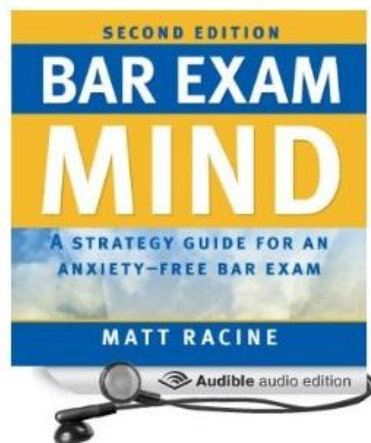

The Ultimate Bar Exam Preparation Resource Guide



From BarExamMind.com

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Introduction

Welcome to *The Ultimate Bar Exam Preparation Resource Guide* from BarExamMind.com.

If you are getting ready to take the bar exam, you want to be able to evaluate all the options for learning the law and passing the test. To help you do this, I have gathered as many links as possible to bar exam prep courses, outlines, training programs, blogs, books and more to help you easily find what's out there to help you pass the bar.

To keep up with new bar exam tips and information, don't forget to [follow me on twitter](#) (@barexammind), like the [Bar Exam Mind Facebook page](#), check out the Bar Exam Mind YouTube channel at youtube.com/barexammind, and subscribe to the [Bar Exam Mind newsletter](#) to get your free gift to help with your bar exam studies.

Disclosures:

- If I have used a product or course listed below, I will tell you and will summarize my experience. Otherwise, the link is for your information; you will have to evaluate the product and decide if you want to rely on it.
- Some of the links in this guide (mainly the links to books) are affiliate links, meaning that I get a small commission (at no extra charge to you) if you decide to purchase after clicking that link. For full affiliate disclosure, [click here](#).

Finally, if you have any comments about this *Guide* or know of a product or provider I should add to it, drop me a line via the Bar Exam Mind [contact page](#).

Thanks!

Matt

Bar Exam Review Courses

National Full-Service Bar Prep Courses

- [BAR/BRI](#)

My Experience with Bar/Bri: This is the biggest bar prep company in the United States. I used Bar/Bri both times that I took the bar exam. I took the full lecture course in Oregon, and then just bought the books for California. I thought Bar/Bri had very thorough material, but I did not like how it presented the MBE portion of the test. I ended up using [PMBR \(now Kaplan\)](#) and Adaptibar (*see below*). That said, if you can afford Bar/Bri, I recommend it. (Click to read [a more extensive critique of Bar/Bri](#).)

- [Kaplan](#)

- [Themis](#)

- [Ameribar](#)

- [Reed Bar Review](#)

Jurisdiction-Specific Full-Service Bar Prep Courses

- [Rigos Bar Review](#) (WA, OR, CA)

- [Pieper](#) (NY only)

- [Smarter Review](#) (NY only) (Here is a [review of this program](#).)

- [The Bar Code](#) (CA, AZ, NV, NY)

- [BarXMprep](#) (CA, AZ, NY, NV and jurisdictions using multistate tests – e.g., MBE, MEE, MPT)
- [Celebration Bar Exam](#) (CA, NY, FL, NJ, TX, GA)
- [Supreme Bar Review](#) (OH only)
- [Bar Max](#) (CA and NY)
- [Fleming's Bar Review](#) (CA only)
- [Bar Passers](#) (CA only)
- [Executive Bar Review](#) (CA only, specializing in helping working professionals and out-of-state attorneys)
- [Bar None](#) (CA only)
- [Bar Secrets](#) (CA only)
- [Emerson's Bar Review](#) (CA only)
- [US Virgin Islands Bar Review](#)

MBE Review Courses

Many of the links below are to online courses. Online courses are great because they are convenient and keep track of how well you are doing in each subject area. On the other hand, the actual MBE portion of the bar exam is a pencil and paper test. You must be prepared to answer the questions by “[filling in the bubble](#).” If you go with an online course, I’d recommend you find a way to practice at least some of your MBE questions using pencil and paper sheet so that your brain and body get used to responding to the questions in that manner, and not simply clicking a mouse.

- **Adaptibar** –
My Experience with Adaptibar: I used Adaptibar when I took the California bar exam. Since I had taken the MBE and PMBR (now Kaplan) less than two years earlier, I felt that I could get away with just practicing on a computer rather than using paper and pencil tests. The quality of the Adaptibar questions is very good, since they are *real MBE* questions licensed from the National Conference of Bar Examiners. My biggest complaint is that the questions were not as difficult as the PMBR questions, so you might not be forced to learn as many rules and distinctions as with PMBR. On the other hand, Adaptibar appeared to teach all the major distinctions. If you can master those, you should be able to get a passing MBE score on the actual bar exam.
- Kaplan [formerly PMBR]
My Experience with PMBR: I liked the PMBR method. From what I understand, Kaplan has kept it essentially the same. The PMBR questions are insanely difficult, but they force you to parse the MBE questions in order to learn very minute distinctions. Since the MBE is a test of how well you take tests, as opposed to a strictly knowledge-based test, the PMBR method is highly effective. Furthermore, the PMBR practice questions were all on paper. Since the MBE remains a paper and pencil test, it is important to practice answering questions on paper. This way, you get used to how the real bar exam will be.
- Bar In a Box
This was recommended by one of the readers of my blog. She said that it contains good DVD lectures and outlines for the various MBE subjects. However, she said that it does not have enough practice questions to make it a complete MBE prep option.

- [The Bar Key](#)
- [My Bar Prep](#)
- [e-BarReview](#)
- [Multistate Edge](#) (formerly MicroMash)
- [Supreme Bar Review](#)
- [Cheat the Bar](#)
- [Celebration Bar Review](#)
- [Bar Max](#) – iPhone/iPad/iPod App
- [Beat the Bar](#)

Essay and Performance Test Preparation

- [Bar Exam Doctor](#)
- [Bar Write®](#) (Run by Mary Campbell Gallagher.)
- [Essay Advantage](#) – Essay tutorial for the following states: AL, CA, FL, IL, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NV, OH, WV
- [Writing Edge](#) – (CA and Multistate Essays)
- [Bar Essays](#) – Real graded California bar exam essays. **Click to get a [\\$15 discount code!](#)**
- [Fleming's Bar Review](#) (CA)
- [John Holtz PT Workshop](#) (CA)

Tutors/Coaches

It seems to me that hiring a tutor/coach is a very personal decision. A tutor/coach should be someone you trust, who knows the law of your jurisdiction, and who will be able to prepare you to take the bar exam with confidence. There are probably thousands of bar exam tutors and coached out there. I listed the few below because I have found positive reviews of their services on blogs. If you have used a tutor or coach who you liked or know of any tutors/coaches whose services have been favorably reviewed somewhere, please send me that information by using the [Bar Exam Mind contact page](#). I'll review your information and update the list. Thanks.

- [Law Preps](#) – (Offices in Chicago and New York.)
- [Marino Bar Tutors](#) (NY, NY, CT, PN as well as MBE and MPT.)
- Patrick Lin at [barexam101.com](#) (CA - recommended by a blog reader)
- [Amicus Tutoring](#) (CA only.)
- [Paulina Bandy](#) (CA only.)
- [BarWrite®](#)
- [Leaf Bar Prep](#) (for students with learning disabilities; CA bar only)

Outlines

Outlines can be very helpful for systematizing each bar exam subject. I used outlines when I took the bar exam, and I can't imagine passing without them. Still, if you didn't use outlines during law school, like some of my friends, then there is no reason to start during the bar exam.

MBE Outlines

- Free [MBE Outlines](#) from BarExamMind.com

State-Specific Outlines

- Free [California Bar Exam Outlines](#) from BarExamMind.com
- Free [Oregon Bar Exam Outlines](#) from BarExamMind.com
- Free [New York Bar Exam Outlines](#) on BarExamMind.com.
- [All4JDs](#)

Bar Exam Preparation Books

The books listed below address various topics, such as substantive bar prep, advice on how to approach the bar exam, how to effectively tackle the individual sections of the bar exam (i.e., the MBE, essays, and PT), and how to remain calm and anxiety-free in the face of the bar exam. (Note: Some books are *state-specific*; they appear at the end of each category.)

General Bar Prep

- Matt Racine, [Bar Exam Basics: A Roadmap for Bar Exam Success](#)
- Kris Rivenburgh, [The Bar Exam Is Easy: A Straightforward Guide on How to Pass the Bar Exam with Less Study Time and Save \\$3,000](#)
- Denise Riebe and Michael Hunter Schwartz, [Pass the Bar!](#)
- Steven I. Friedland and Jeffrey Scott Shapiro, [The Essential Rules for Bar Exam Success](#)
- Suzanne Darrow-Kleinhaus, [Acing the Bar Exam: A Checklist Approach to Taking the Bar Exam](#)
- Jaimee Nardiello and Alyssa Grodin, [The Bar Exam Survival Guide: The Insider's Handbook for Passing the Bar Exam](#)
- Chad Noreuil, [The Arizona Bar Exam: Pass It Now](#)
- Jessica Klein, [The Goat's Guide: The Complete Step-by-Step Guide to Preparing for the California Bar Exam on Your Own](#)
- Dustin Saiidi, [The 7 Steps to Bar Exam Success](#)

MBE Books

- James J. Rigos, [Rigos Multistate Two Volume Set](#)
- Steven Finz, [Strategies & Tactics for FINZ Multistate Method, Second Edition](#)
- Steven L. Emanuel, [Strategies & Tactics for the MBE, volumes I and II](#) – These books are **highly recommended** by bar exam repeaters who had trouble with the MBE the first time around. If

you are a month out from the bar exam and are still baffled by the MBE, it might be a good idea to pick up one or both of these volumes. **Check out my [extensive review here](#).**

- Steven L. Emanuel, [Emanuel Confidential for the MBE](#)
- Melissa A. Gill and Tania N. Shah, [Multistate Bar Exam, 5th Edition](#)
- Keith Elkin, [MBE: Beginning Your Campaign To Pass The Bar Exam](#)
- Alfred Zappala, [Passing the Bar Exam: The Multistate Digest](#) [*Kindle only.*]
- [Passing The Bar](#) by P&R Educational Games [*Not a book, but a board game!*]
- Also check out <http://mbetutorial.blogspot.com/> a great MBE blog

Essay and Performance Test

- Mary Campbell Gallagher, [Scoring High on Bar Exam Essays: In-depth Strategies and Essay-Writing That Bar Review Courses Don't Offer, With 80 Actual State Bar Exams Questions and Answers](#)
- Melissa A. Gill and Tania N. Shah, [What Not to Write: Real Essays, Real Scores, Real Feedback \(Bar Review Series\)](#)
- James J. Rigos, [Uniform Multistate Essay Exam \(MEE\) Review, Second Edition](#)
- Kaplan PMBR: [Multistate Performance Test \(MPT\)](#)
- Mary Campbell Gallagher, [Perform Your Best on the Bar Exam Performance Test \(MPT\): Train to Finish the MPT in 90 Minutes, "Like a Sport\(TM\)"](#)
- James J. Rigos, [Rigos Multistate Performance Test](#)
- Melissa A. Gill and Tania N. Shah, [What NOT to Write: Real Essays, Real Scores, Real Feedback \(California Edition\)](#)

- Whitney Roberts, [The Bar Code](#) (California focused, but might help with other states' essays.)
- James J. Rigos, Rigos [California Essay Exam \(Rigos Bar Review Series\)](#)
- Melissa A. Gill and Tania N. Shah, [What Not to Write: NY Bar Exam Essay Book \(New York Edition\)](#)
- Melissa A. Gill and Tania N. Shah, [What Not to Write: Real Essays, Real Scores, Real Feedback \(Massachusetts Edition\)](#)

Bar Exam Stress and Anxiety

- Matt Racine, [Bar Exam Mind: A Strategy Guide for an Anxiety-Free Bar Exam](#) (also available on [Nook](#) and [Kobo](#) and in [audiobook](#), which **you might be able to get for free** – see second page of this guide for details).
- Matt Racine: [The Bar Exam Mind Bar Exam Journal: Guided Writing Exercises to Help You Pass the Bar Exam](#) (also on [Nook](#) and [Kobo](#)).
- M. G. Groepler, [Daily Reflections For Bar Exam Study: An Inspirational Companion For Law Students And Experienced Attorneys Taking The Bar](#)
- Chad Noreuil, [The Zen of Passing the Bar Exam](#)
- Rosemary La Puma, [If I Don't Pass the Bar I'll Die](#)
- [Bar Exam Visualizations](#) – [*an audio program*] (use code **viz25** to get 50% off)
- [Mind Over Bar](#) – [*not a book, a video program; check out the [free teleseminar](#).*]
- [Bar Exam Mental Edge](#) – [*a self-hypnosis program*]
- [Bar Exam Affirmations](#) – [*an audio program*].

Other Bar Prep Material

Flashcards

I think it is best to make your own flashcards, but if you do not want to or do not have the time to, there are several free and commercial resources out there.

- Quizlet – Free. Anyone can make and upload flashcards. There are lots of bar exam flashcards sets available on the site. The site also has apps to let you download the cards to your iPhone or Android so you can study on the go.
- Flashcard Database – Free. Same basic setup as Quizlet.
- Kaplan PMBR: MBE Review Flashcards
- Dominate the Bar Flashcards
- Law in a Flash Cards
- Critical Pass MBE Flashcards (also available for slightly less at www.criticalpass.com)
- Bar in a Flash
- Multistate Bar Exam Flashcard Study System
- Jeff Adachi, Bar Cards Complete Set (California and Multistate Subjects)

Blogs and Blog Posts

Blogs can be a good source of information about the bar exam. Of course, some blogs are very negative about the bar exam. If reading negative or anxious posts increases your anxiety, then you should avoid reading those blogs until after the bar exam. The links below go to what I believe are among the more helpful blogs out there. Since the internet is always growing, let me know via my [contact page](#) if you found a blog or blog post I should add to the list.

Blogs about the bar exam

- [Bar Exam Mind](#) (My current bar exam blog. Focuses on practical exam-taking advice and how to reduce the stress and anxiety that can arise when studying for the bar exam.)
- <http://barexamtoolbox.com/> (Lots of great bar exam tips and study tools.)
- <http://californiagbx0707.blogspot.com/> (Written by a multi-repeater of the California bar exam whose tenacity is inspiring.)
- <http://baradvisor.blogspot.com/> (My original bar exam blog.)
- <http://all4jds.com/> (All4JDs is a heavily-used forum with lots of discussions about the bar exam. Some of the information is *very* helpful. Be warned, however, lots of negative comments get posted, so avoid this site if that sort of talk gets to you.)
- <http://ipassedmybarexam.com/> (Good general bar exam advice.)

- http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/academic_support/bar_exam_preparation/ (Very informative blog written by law professors. Can be a bit dry.)
- <http://www.barwriteblog.com/>

General blog posts about the bar exam

- <http://ms-jd.org/topic/features/advicepassingbarexam>
- <http://sobriquetmoose.blogspot.com/2011/07/california-bar-exam-tips.html> (California tips, but many apply to all jurisdictions.)
- <http://lawyerist.com/12-tips-successful-bar-exam/>
- <http://cuttingedgelaw.com/content/ten-tips-passing-bar-exam>
- <http://thegirlsguidetolawschool.com/tag/bar-exam/>
- <http://abovethelaw.com/?s=%22bar+exam%22>
- http://www.swlaw.edu/student-services/registrar/bar-requirements/bar_exam_resources/barpreparation
- <http://www.law.villanova.edu/Current%20Students/Academic%20Success/Bar%20Preparation/Preparation%20Tips.aspx>
- <http://thedesertion.wordpress.com/2013/08/02/what-to-expect-at-the-arizona-bar-exam/> (Arizona bar exam)

Blogs about the MBE

- <http://mbetutorial.blogspot.com/>

- <http://www.barexammind.com/strategies-and-tactics-for-the-mbe-a-review/>

Working while Studying for the Bar Exam

- <http://jessie-zaylia.blogspot.com/2012/01/tips-for-working-bar-takers-and-details.html>
- <http://www.attacksheets.com/how-to-study-for-the-bar-exam-while-working-full-time/>
- <http://www.barexammind.com/work-during-bar-exam-prep/>

Advice from Repeaters who Passed

- <http://legallyfabulous.blogspot.com/2011/11/so-youfailed-bar-exam.html> (Lengthy and informative post by a three-time Illinois bar exam repeater.)
- <http://jessie-zaylia.blogspot.com/2011/11/how-i-passed-california-bar-exam.html> (This is a great video post by a three-time repeater of the California bar exam. Good discussion of what she did differently and how she eased her anxiety.)
- <http://erickregalado.wordpress.com/2012/05/22/2nd-time-was-the-charm-i-passed-the-california-bar-exam/> (Summary of how one examinee passed on the second try.)

Conclusion

I hope you found *The Ultimate Bar Preparation Resource Guide* useful. Let me know what you thought by leaving a comment on the [Guide's page on my blog](#).

Be sure to keep up with all the latest from Bar Exam Mind by following the Twitter account [@barexammind](#) and liking the [Bar Exam Mind Facebook page](#). Check out the Bar Exam Mind YouTube channel at youtube.com/barexammind. And, don't forget to sign up for the [Bar Exam Mind newsletter](#).

GOOD LUCK ON THE BAR EXAM! – *Matt*

P.S. – Feel free to forward this *Guide* to anyone you think could use it. If you run a blog or website, feel free to post it on your site. These terms of use are subject to the following conditions: (1) you are not allowed to make any changes to the text or links within this document; and (2) you cannot charge anyone for a copy of this document.

P.P.S. – Know of a bar prep resource that should be in this *Guide*? See some incorrect information? Find a broken link? My goal is to make this *Guide* as comprehensive and helpful as possible, so drop me a line via the [Bar Exam Mind contact page](#) and I'll update the *Guide*.