Passing the Bar: A Quick Reference Guide For Today’s Law Student

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Remember Why You Are Doing This

Before you dive head-first into bar study, take some time to remind yourself of why you started on the law school journey in the first place. It has been years since you sat down to write your personal statement for your law school application. You're going to need to draw on that initial passion and inspiration in order to get through the next couple of months.

Studying for the bar exam can be a roller coaster of emotions. You will want something on hand to remind you of your end goal. Dig out that old personal statement (you can probably get it from LSAC or your law school if you don't still have it somewhere), write a letter to yourself, or create some art as a reminder of where you want to be once the bar exam is behind you. A lot of what you were asked to do in law school probably felt very divorced from why you came to law school in the first place. Bar study can feel even farther away from that initial mission. Keeping your goals close can enhance your motivation during bar study.

It can be very helpful to have regular reminders of why you set out on this journey in the first place. It may sound silly, but it is helpful to place reminders and inspirational quotes around your study and living spaces. Put Post-it Notes in places where you will see them every day. Have encouraging reminders pop up on your phone periodically. Have friends and loved ones regularly send you positive, affirming, messages. You are so close to reaching your goal now. This is the final hurdle.

Remember that it is a privilege to have graduated from law school and to be able to sit for the bar exam. At one time, you dreamed about this very moment. While it may seem more like a nightmare now, keeping those initial dreams alive will help you get through tough moments during bar study.

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