Passing the Bar: A Quick Reference Guide For Today’s Law Student
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CALI eLangdell® Press

Knowing Your Test Center

Depending on your jurisdiction, you may need to make travel plans several months in advance. Look at your state’s bar examiners’ website to find out the location(s) of the bar exam. (You can find your jurisdiction’s website by going to “Jurisdiction Information” on the National Conference of Bar Examiners’ website: <http://www.ncbex.org/>.) You may need to take a car, train, or plane to get there. Figure out the best method of transportation for you, and how long your travel time will be. You should also check the weather in the area you will be going to (particularly if you are taking the exam in February). You may want to arrive in your test city a couple of days early if there is a possibility it will snow and travel will become difficult.

If you have to travel, you will likely want to book a hotel well in advance, before they fill up. Think about whether you want to be in a room by yourself, whether you want a loved one to come with you, or whether you want to room with a friend. If you share a room with a friend, make sure you discuss arrangements and set out ground rules in advance, so you know each other’s needs and preferences regarding discussing exam-related issues during your stay. Everyone’s stress will be high, and sometimes it is best to just be alone. Ask your school’s academic/bar support team where people usually stay and how they usually get to the test center.

Stop by the test site before exam day so you don't have any anxiety about getting lost. Make sure you give yourself plenty of extra time to deal with every day issues such as traffic and transportation delays. Make a backup plan in case your first transportation plan doesn't work.

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